

Hattiesburg Area Historical Society

HAHS MUSEUM
Hattiesburg Cultural Center
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Filling in the Blanks

Every week people contact the HAHS Museum searching for information to fill in the blanks of their community's or family's history. Sometimes we can help. Other times the information seems to be lost in the past, and we have no resources to help.

Or maybe we should say that we have no resources **yet**. Fortunately, requests are not the only things that come in each week. Artifacts and printed materials that have been hidden away for years and recently uncovered arrive as well. It is through these materials that we can answer the questions and rediscover the Hattiesburg area's lost past.

Recently, a photocopy of a 1908 Hattiesburg Miss. promotional publication arrived. This Industrial Edition was published under the direction of the Commercial Club and is so rare that even the Mississippi State Department of Archives and History does not have a copy. The introduction states, "to attain the highest pinnacle of power and influence in Mississippi is the ambition of the Hattiesburg Commercial Club, and knowing that righteous power and influence can only be gained and retained by honest and straightforward methods, the Club has adopted for its motto, '**Truthfulness and Exactness**' in all its work "

From the Commercial Club publication we can now answer more completely the question: "What and where was the Hattiesburg Business College?" (See the answer on the next page.)



Picture exactly as printed in the 1908 publication.

(Continued from page 1) Printed directly below the picture on page two of the Commercial Club publication was the following information:

“This magnificent institution with its new \$100,000 equipment is located in the southern suburbs of the city. It has recitation room for over five hundred students and boarding accommodations for about three hundred. The buildings are supplied with steam heat, electric lights, artesian water, hot and cold tub and shower baths, and sewerage. It has a library of thousands of selected works. It maintains the usual college courses, and offers special facilities in Domestic Science, Art, Expression and Music. This institution is managed by a faculty of sixteen officers and teachers, and during the present session has enrolled over 380 students.

The Hattiesburg Business College with its three officers and nearly one hundred students is also domiciled in the above buildings.”

Page 37 of the publication gives additional information:

Hattiesburg Business College

“Prof. J. J. Ferguson, principal of the Hattiesburg Business College, came to Hattiesburg from Meridian, Miss. about two years ago. He was principal of the Macon-Andrews Business College at Meridian for several years.

The Hattiesburg Business College has now about eighty pupils enrolled. The school, while a separate corporation from the South Mississippi College, is located on the same campus, this being done to give the pupils the benefit of the boarding facilities connected therewith.

The courses of study are book-keeping, shorthand, typewriting, penmanship, mathematics, spelling, English and commercial law and banking.

Prof. Ferguson has filled a long felt want in the establishment of his school in Hattiesburg. The young ladies and young men of the community who are fitting themselves for useful lives in the world of business need not go away for the necessary training, but can stay at home under the influences of parental care, while those from out of town localities who avail themselves of the advantages here offered will have the same care and influence surrounding them in the good home of the college as they would get at home.”

Additional information can be found in the *Hattiesburg American* Golden Jubilee Edition of Wednesday October 26, 1932, on page B8 in “Women’s College Serves Girls of Wide Area Well, Now in 21st Term,” written by Jeannette Lawrence. The article traces the beginning of Mississippi Woman’s College (now William Carey University) back to South Mississippi College and the Business College. She states that a campus of 15 acres was secured in the southwestern portion of Hattiesburg, and three large two-story buildings were erected—one administration building and two dorms (shown in the picture on page one).

The school had great success for several years, but the loss of the administration building to fire in 1910 closed South Miss. College. In 1911, W.S.F. Tatum purchased the property for the school that would become William Carey. The Hattiesburg Business College moved to downtown Hattiesburg and continued to operate at 201 West Pine Street. It is believed to have closed in 1937.



The question is, are you qualified to hold a responsible position? Have you had a thorough commercial training? Bankers, Merchants, and Manufacturers want you if you are competent. **Now is Your Chance.** Two roads are open to young people. One requires no training and leads to failure. The other requires training and leads to success. We prepare young men and women and start them on the road to success by securing them high-salaried positions. Fine climate, board cheap. Write for illustrated catalog and further information,
HATTIESBURG BUSINESS COLLEGE, HATTIESBURG, MISS.

1908 advertisement

The following conversation is much too common at the HAHS Museum: “We’re sorry. You are ten, twenty, or thirty years too late. Everyone who knew is no longer here.” “I don’t know why I waited so long. It just didn’t seem to matter when I was younger.”

When the younger members of your family say that they are not interested in your accounts of the past, just remember that one day **they WILL be interested**, and you may not be here to relate the tales.

So tell them the stories anyway. Write them down. Label the photos, and explain the who, what, when, where and why about each picture. Record your memories or make a CD or DVD. Keep this chronicle safe for the future when those who did not want to listen will be glad that you left them the information to fill in the blanks

GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

November 18, 2010 – May 31, 2011

- * Hattiesburg High School Big Eight Football Championship Trophy and Framed collage of Big Eight Football Championship Players and Schedule—David O. Walker and Ginny Walker English.
- * Demonstration School Annuals 1949, 1951, 1952, & 1953 *Lil' Miss Sou* plus 17 City Directories ranging from 1985 – 2001— F. Charles Phillips, Sr.
- * Table Decorations used by HHS Class of 1925 at their 50th Anniversary plus newspaper clipping of the event— Dr William Goyer by wife Mildred Goyer.
- * Rowan High School Class of 1959 class composite enlargement—Raylawni G. A. Branch.
- * Book: *Bringing the World to Mississippi: The University of Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra 1919-2010*. 2 copies—Jay Dean author.
- * Postcards: 288 circa early 1900's postcards between Lucius DeWitt Statham and Euna Moak before their 1908 marriage in Holmesville, MS—Steve and Elaine Knapp.
- * Hattiesburg Chamber of Commerce Papers c1949-1989—Garland Sullivan
- * 35 Various Army Corps Full-color Patches and 1923 Stock Certificate for Illumno Sign Co., Hattiesburg, MS --Dr. Tom Rhea Phillips, Jr.
- * Scott Street Cemetery Inventory in binder form plus CD—Boy Scout Troop 461, Drew and Lelia Wilson.
- * Document: Resolution Texas House of Representatives Tribute to Miss Penne Percy of Waco, 1962 Maid of Cotton (member of the Green family)—Jon Oxley
- * DVD – Views of Hattiesburg (1968-69); DVD Candle Lighting Historic District 2010; Photos and information on Maurice Dreyfus and family—Harry C. Ward
- * First National Bank History, Photos and Memorabilia—Doyle V. Downs
- * Various Newspaper Articles, Clippings, Scrapbooks and Files belonging to the late Sarah Gillespie—David Halliwell
- * Assorted Hattiesburg Public Schools items and photographs—Harry C. Ward.
- * Boots: Pair of Brown Leather Boots (J. S. Turner) circa 1900 and a Pair of Black Books circa 1900—Martha Polk Douglas Estate.
- * Various Girl Scout items and equipment including a 48 Star Flag on Pole—Nancy McMillan
- * DVD: Woman In American History: DAR Member Dee Abbott—Jo Ann Giles and Norvell Robertson Chapter NSDAR.
- * Assorted Items from South Central Mississippi Bar Auxillary—Louise Cubley.
- * Demonstration School Annuals "Lil Miss Sou" 1947, 1948, 1949—Mary Jane Burkett Caruso.
- * Assorted Photos and Memorabilia from the estate of Mary Watson—Reid Watson

Recent Monetary Contributions

November 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011

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Bessie Hullum

HAHS MUSEUM
Post Office Box 1573
Hattiesburg, MS



39403-1573
MUSEUM HOURS
Mon., Tues., Thurs.
2:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Or by Appointment
Call 601-582-5460

Located in the
Hattiesburg Cultural
Center
723 Main Street
Downtown
Hattiesburg, MS

Web site:
www.hahsmuseum.org

Email: [hahsmuseu@
megagate.com](mailto:hahsmuseu@megagate.com)

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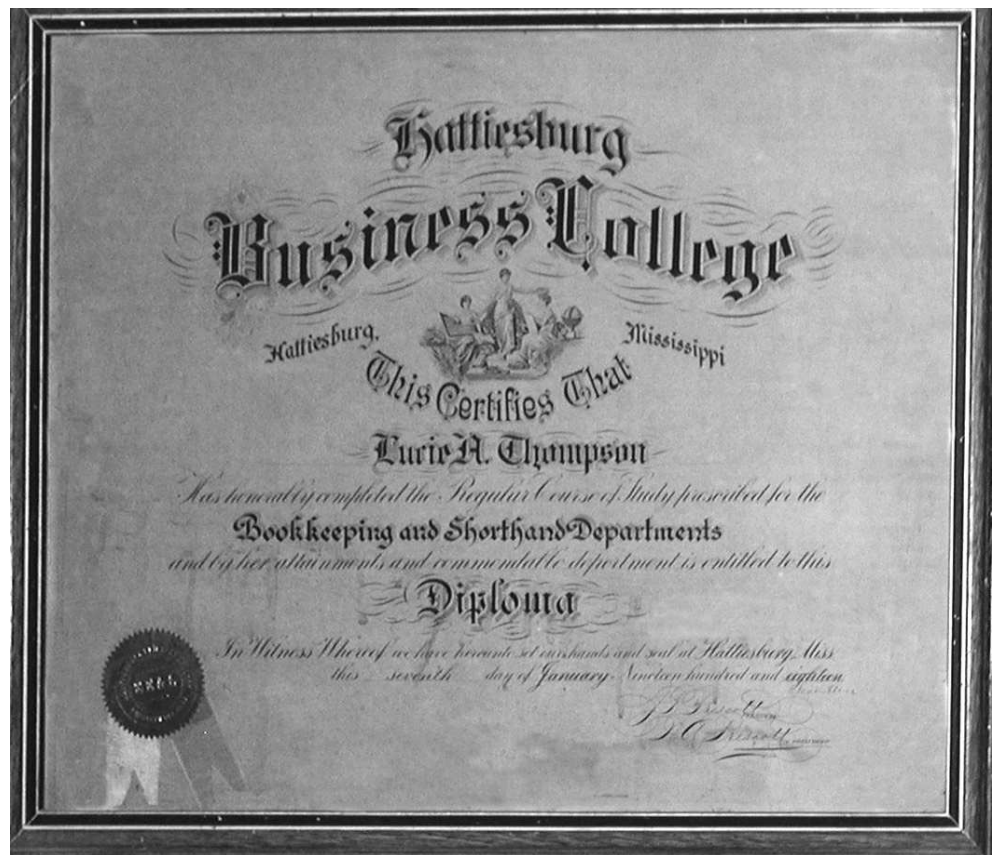
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(continued from page 2)



A copy of Lucie A. Thompson's, January 7, 1918, Business College diploma sent by her grandson, William R. Ziegler of Raleigh, NC, reads: "This certifies that Lucie A. Thompson has honorably completed the regular course of study prescribed for the Bookkeeping and Shorthand Departments and by her attainments and commendable department is entitled to this diploma."

Please check your mailing label to see year paid. If you do not have a 2011 or an "L" (for life member) your dues are due. Thank you!

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE HATTIESBURG AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2011 HAHS DUES

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Individual \$10 _____ Couple/Organization \$15 _____

Student \$2 _____ Life Membership- Each Person \$100 _____

History of Forrest County, MS available on sale for \$20.00 + \$5.00 postage

(Please make checks payable to HAHS and send to

P. O. Box 1573, Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1573