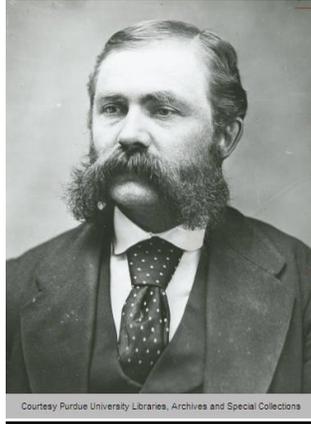


PURDUE

UNIVERSITY



FINDING AID TO THE JAMES H. SMART PAPERS, 1841-1900

**Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
Research Center
504 West State Street
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2058
(765) 494-2839**

<http://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol>

© 2016 Purdue University Libraries. All rights reserved.
Revised by: Amanda Burdick, November 21, 2016; Neal Harmeyer, May 16, 2017
Compiled By: Anna Seiffert, August 22, 2010

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Smart, James Henry, 1841-1900
Title	The James H. Smart papers
Collection Identifier	UA 48
Date Span	1874-1977, predominant 1883-1900
Abstract	The collection contains letter books documenting the daily correspondence from the office of the Purdue University President. It also contains correspondence, printed material (publications, newspaper clippings), biographical information, memorials, addresses and administrative papers relating to the life and career of James H. Smart.
Extent	3.4 cubic feet (3 c.f. boxes, 1 mss. Box, 1 folder)
Finding Aid Author	Anna Seiffert, 2010
Languages	English
Repository	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:	ASC
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research.
Preferred Citation:	UA 48, James H. Smart papers, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
Related Materials Information:	Office of the President, Purdue University MSF 364, Winthrop E. Stone papers MSF 242 Henry W. Marshall papers Edward C. Elliott papers Frederick L. Hovde papers UA 52, Arthur G. Hansen papers John W. Hicks papers Steven C. Beering papers Martin Jischke papers France Cordova Oral History Interview

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Smart, James H. (James Henry), 1841-1900

Organizations

Purdue University

Topics

College presidents-Indiana

Purdue University-History

Purdue University-Presidents

Form and Genre Types

Certificates

Letters (correspondence)

Letter books

Newspaper clippings

Biography of James H. Smart

James Henry Smart (1841-1900), fourth president of Purdue University, was born at Center Harbor, New Hampshire, June 30, 1841 to Dr. William Hutchings Smart and Nancy Farrington Smart. Smart was primarily homeschooled, but did attend high school in Concord at age 12. At age seventeen, after being employed as a bookkeeper, he returned to Concord High school as a temporary teacher. In 1859 Smart began his teaching career at Sanborton, New Hampshire. In 1863 he moved to Toledo, Ohio to assume a principal position of an intermediate school. By age 25 Smart became superintendent of the public school system of Fort Wayne, Indiana. In that role he was also a member of the State Board of Education. On July 21, 1870, Smart married Mary H. Swan and went on to have a son, Professor R. A. Smart and a daughter, Mary Farrington Smart. That same year he was given an honorary degree of A.M. (Artium Magister) by Dartmouth College. In 1872 he was elected President of the State Teachers Associations and he also was appointed representative of the United States at the World's Exposition in Vienna. In 1874, Smart was elected as the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, which he held for six years. Smart was again a representative of the United States at the World's Paris Exposition in 1878. In 1880, Smart was elected President of the National Educational Association. He was also a member of the National Superintendents' Association and a member of the National Council. In 1883 Indiana University presented him with the degree of LL.D (Legum Doctor).

James H. Smart became President of Purdue University on August 23, 1883, succeeding Emerson E. White. That same year the Indiana State legislature appropriated funds for erecting a new building for the School of Mechanical Engineering. Although engineering and agricultural subjects were the main interest of the university, a Purdue School of Pharmacy was established in 1884. In 1887, Federal money was granted for the use of the Agricultural Experiment Station, which furthered the Agricultural department. Smart served as President of the American Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations in 1890. In 1888, a separate School of Electrical Engineering was organized under the head of Dr. Louis Bell. The following year the state legislature granted funds for a laboratory building. A new Engineering building was dedicated on January 19, 1894, but nearly burned to the ground four days later. Smart appropriated funds and worked with companies to replace equipment and to rebuild; the building reopened in September. The school prospered; despite the failing health of President Smart, between the years of 1896 and 1900, with the student body growing from just over one hundred to almost a thousand. James H. Smart died on February 21, 1900, and was succeeded as president of Purdue University by Winthrop Ellsworth Stone.

Source(s):

UA 48, James H. Smart papers, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries

Collection Description

Scope

The James H. Smart papers (1874-1977; 3.4 cubic feet) primarily document James H. Smart's term as president of Purdue University (1883-1900).

The majority of the papers are in the form of letter books (1881-1899). The letter book from 1881-1885 begins with President Emerson E. White; the greater part is by James H. Smart. The letters are primarily written by Smart, although some are written by his secretary L.D. Swan as well as vice-president Winthrop E. Stone in his absence. The letters chiefly concern everyday correspondences relating to the office of the president.

Other papers include correspondences relating to Purdue University. The collection contains non-commercial publications, addresses and administrative papers documenting issues concerning education and Purdue University. There are also biographies, memorials and newspaper clippings regarding the career and death of James H. Smart.

Types of materials include: letter books, correspondence, printed material (publications, newspaper clippings), biographical information, memorials, addresses and administrative papers. The papers are organized into 2 series:

Arrangement

1. Letter Books, 1881-1899 3 cubic feet

Primarily the letters concern everyday correspondences relating to the office of the president. These topics include letters to prospective students, current students and guardians regarding academic progress and letters of recommendation, staff and officials both at Purdue University as well as other institutions. Several letters concern additions to the University, especially construction of new laboratories. Other letters concern football and the State Athletic Association. Several letters contain information about Chief of Ordinance, US. Army, Washington, D.C. regarding supplies and students receiving military instruction and shipments to Rock Island Arsenal in Rock Island, Illinois. A number of letters regard Purdue University's involvement in the World's Columbian Exposition.

Materials in the series are arranged chronologically.

2. Papers, 1874-1977 .4 cubic feet

There are correspondences relating to the Government Agricultural Experiment Station, the World's Columbian Exposition, the suit against the Auditor of State by several state universities, a proposed addition to a laboratory and an Address to the State board of Education requesting membership for the President of Purdue University. There are form letters that address concerns of the cost of education and budgetary matters.

Materials in the series are arranged by form and chronologically.

Descriptive Rules Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd Edition / Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

Materials have been housed in acid-free boxes and folders.

Revision History

Collection identifier updated from UA 2.04 to UA 48 as of November 21, 2016.

Removed collection identifier OSS 1 on May 16, 2017.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Series 1: Letter Books, 1881-1899

3 cubic feet

Box 1 Letter Books, 1881-1897

Item

- 1 Letter Book, Aug. 22, 1881-Dec. 3, 1885
Begins with President Emerson E. White, majority is by James H. Smart
2. Letter Book "University No. 2", Dec. 7 1885-Jan. 14-1888
3. Letter Book "University No. 3.", Jan. 16 1888-Dec. 26 1888
4. Letter Book, Mar. 17-Oct. 18 1897
Three "Report of Committee" each 2 ms. pages, undated

Box 2 Letter Books, 1890-1894

Item

- 1 Letter Book, "University No. 4", Dec. 26, 1888-Mar. 4, 1890
Letters 482-487 are letters to various editors concerning the new Electrical Laboratory, which was one of the first of its kind in the country
Letter 794 to George Ade reminding him he cannot attend the ladies literary society without permission
Letters 811, 915 are construction contracts for the Electrical Laboratory
Some letters are by L.D. Swan, secretary to the president
2. Letter Book, "University Letter Book No. 5", Mar. 5, 1890-Mar. 16, 1891
Letter 109 addressed to Captain at Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island Il. regarding receipt of ordinances
3. Letter Book, "University Letter Book No. 6", Mar. 17, 1891-Dec. 12, 1891
Letters 407-408 concerning act of Congress dated Aug. 30, 1890 regarding public lands being added to university endowments
Letter 834 addressed to President John requesting change to State Athletic Association rules regarding Post-graduates being excluded from championship football games
Letter 888 addressed to Westinghouse Machine Co. regarding new Mechanical Laboratory and requesting a significant discount on purchase of experimental engine
Letters 906-907 Purdue football team manager Noel writes to request use of Indianapolis fair grounds for a football game Thanksgiving day 1892
4. Letter Book, "University Letter Book No. 7", Dec. 23, 1891-Jan. 4, 1893
Letter 122 addressed to Sec. State Board of Health regarding Purdue University investigating water pollution in the Wabash River
Letter 183 is a listing of Purdue Alumni living in Indianapolis
Letter 235 is of a personal nature to Mr. Edgerton

Letter 260 addressed to Chief of Ordinance, US. Army, Washington, D.C. regarding supplies and students receiving military instruction
Letter 450 is addressed to the executive commissioner World's Columbian Exposition regarding Purdue's exhibit

5. Letter Book, "Letter Book University No. 8", Jan. 4, 1893-Jan. 2, 1894
Due to fading and staining, some pages are illegible

Box 3 Letter Books, 1894-1899

Item

- 1 Letter Book, Jan. 2, 1894-Jan. 2, 1895
Letters from Oct. regard a hazing incident where 11 students were dismissed under a new rule against such actions enacted that fall
Letter 986-993 to the editor of Inter Ocean of Chicago Ill regarding being in favor of football.
2. Letter Book, Jan. 1, 1895-May 21, 1895
3. Letter Book, Nov. 23, 1895-Aug. 24, 1896
4. Letter Book, "University 12", Aug. 1896-May 1897
Commencement program Jun. 7, 1899
Much of the letter book is water damaged and illegible
5. Letter Book, Oct. 18, 1897-May 17, 1898
Letter 787-788 addressed to Chief of Ordinance, US Army about an arsenal shipment to Rock Island, IL
Letter 861 addressed to commanding officer of Rock Island Arsenal concerning ordinance shipment
6. Letter Book, May 17, 1898-Dec. 10, 1898
7. Letter Book, May 19, 1899-Oct. 24, 1899

Series 2: Papers, 1874-1977

0.4 cubic feet

Box 4 Papers, 1874-1977

Folder

- 1 Correspondence, 1883-1898
Letters regarding the Government Agricultural Experiment Station
Letters regarding World's Columbian Exposition
Letters regarding the suit against the Auditor of State by universities
Address to the State board of Education requesting membership for the President of Purdue University
Letters regarding proposed addition to a laboratory
2. Class Gifts Correspondence, 1897-1899
Letters relating to Class of 1897's gift; gateway to the main entrance of the Purdue campus

- Documents listing alumni and gifts, 1880-1903
- Letters to W. E. Stone regarding gifts of classes of 1898-1899
- 3. Form Letters, 1895, undated
- 4. State Fight, 1897-1901
 - Addresses regarding State Board of Education and state vs. non state schools
 - Clippings
 - Correspondence
 - Jan. 1899 proposed act to enlarge the scope and usefulness of Purdue University
- 5. Administration Papers, 1885-1898
 - Appropriation outline, 1885
 - Articles of Association of the Purdue Railroad Company, 1894
 - Plan of proposed addition to engineering laboratory, 1898
 - Bond agreement 1898
- 6. Addresses and Speeches, 1874-1896
- 7. Biographies, 1939, undated
- 8. Memorials, 1900, 1940
- 9. Clippings, 1881-1900
- 10. Publications, 1880
- 11. Publications, 1891-1897
- 12. Miscellaneous, 1900-1977, undated
 - LS to Mrs. J.H. Smart, 1900
 - Typescript Bibliography of President J. H. Smart, undated
 - TLS to President W. B. Stone, 1902
 - TL to Mr. Richard L. Smart, 1977

Folder 1

Certificate of thanks from the Western Railway Club, April 19, 1898