COLLECTION SUMMARY

Collection number: U.A., R.G. 3.1
Collection title: John Thompson papers.
Dates: 1886-1940
Size: 3 boxes, 2 oversized folders (1.8 linear feet)

Creator/Collector: Thompson, John G., 1862-1940.
Acquisition info.: Unknown.
Accruals: No accruals are expected.
Custodial history: Unknown.
Language(s): Collection materials are in English.
Repository: Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library, Fitchburg State University
Conservation notes: Not applicable.

RIGHTS AND ACCESS

Access restrictions Collection is open for research.
Physical access restrict. None.
Technical access restrict. None.
Publication rights Copyright has been assigned to the Gallucci-Cirio Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Gallucci-Cirio Library as the owner of the physical items and as the owner of copyright in items created by the donor. Although copyright was transferred by the donor, copyright in some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s). For further information contact the Special Collections Librarian.

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Preferred citation [item], John Thompson papers, UA, RG 3.1, Fitchburg State University, Fitchburg, Massachusetts.

Related collections William Parkinson papers.
Charles Herlihy papers.
John Randall papers.
William Sanders papers.
Ellis White papers.
Ralph Weston papers.
James Hammond papers.
Vincent Mara papers.
Michael Riccards papers.
Michael Rivard papers.
Robert Antonucci papers.

**Separated material**

All copies of published monographs authored by John Thompson were separated from the collection and catalogued as individual items in Special Collections. Please see the Archivist for a full list of separated titles.

**Published descriptions**

Not applicable.

**Location of originals**

Not applicable.

**Location of copies**

Not applicable.

**Publication note**

Not applicable.

**Subject headings**

Fitchburg State College – Presidents.
Fitchburg State College – Administration.
Fitchburg State College. President’s Office.
Fitchburg State College – Faculty.
Fitchburg State College.
Teachers Colleges – Massachusetts – History.
Thompson, John G., 1862-1940
architectural drawings (visual works). aat
correspondence. aat
administrative records. aat
lecture notes. aat
lectures. aat
poems. aat
bills of sale. aat
clippings (information artifacts). aat

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

John G. Thompson (1862-1940) was an educator and the first principal of the Fitchburg State Normal School from 1894-1920. After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1886, Thompson taught in public schools in Waukegan, Illinois and Sandwich, Massachusetts. He served as principal of Winchester High School in New Hampshire and Southboro High School in Massachusetts before becoming superintendent of a new district including Southboro, Northboro, Shrewsbury, and Berlin, and later of Leominster, Massachusetts. In 1894, Thompson was appointed principal of the newly established Fitchburg Normal School by Fitchburg
Superintendent Joseph Edgerly.

During his tenure at Fitchburg Normal School, Thompson’s efforts included creating a model school in which student teachers could observe and teach, building student and teacher dormitories on campus, and expanding classes to include the teaching of manual arts (industrial education). He successfully brokered land purchases to increase campus property. In addition to teaching courses in psychology, teaching methodology and educational law himself, guest teachers and lecturers were brought to the School on a regular basis as Thompson worked to augment his staff with an outstanding variety of speakers. In addition, Thompson advocated for improvements in teacher salaries while his own increased only from $3,000 to $4,000 during his 25-year employment. Thompson retired from education in August 1920.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is a sub-group within the University Records Collection within the President’s Office Record Group. The bulk of the collection is related to John Thompson’s administrative role at the Fitchburg Normal School. This collection mainly consists of correspondence but also includes bills, essays and prose, lectures, blueprints, bills of sale, and newspaper clippings. Correspondence includes letters to and from the superintendent relating to teachers salaries, issues within the school, Normal School conferences, land purchase, safety concerns, and other information relating to the School and its attendants.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

SERIES 1:  Correspondence, 1913-1920

This series contains correspondence from the office of the Principal. The bulk of the correspondence is between Thompson and the State Commissioners. The series is arranged chronologically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Container Number</th>
<th>Folder Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence, April 1920–August 1920</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence, January 1920–March 1920</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence, May 1919-December 1919</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence, February 1919-April 1919</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence, September 1918-December 1918</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence, February 1918-August 1918</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence, March 1917-December 1917</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence, April 1913-September 1915, May 1916-February 1917, undated</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence (oversized), July 1918</td>
<td>oversized</td>
<td>9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SERIES 3: Land Purchase, 1894-1911
This series contains various correspondence and documents relating to land purchase. Including notes, essays, land assessments, deeds, and blueprints.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Container Number</th>
<th>Folder Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land Purchase, August 1894-August 1911</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Purchase (oversized), October 1910-September 1919</td>
<td>oversized</td>
<td>11</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SERIES 4: Concerts, June 1918-February 1921
This series contains pamphlets for five concerts presented at the school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Container Number</th>
<th>Folder Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concerts, June 1918-February 1921</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SERIES 5: Day Street School, February 1917
This series contains materials related to the Day Street School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Container Number</th>
<th>Folder Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day Street School, February 1917</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SERIES 6: Lectures & Publications, 1886-1940
This series contains articles, lectures, pamphlets and poetry written and/or presented by Thompson. Please note that published monographs have been removed and cataloged in the Special Collections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Container Number</th>
<th>Folder Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lectures, 1906-1907</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures given at Clarke Univ., 1898</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry, 1917, 1919</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications, 1886-1940</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SERIES 7: Dedication Ceremony, 1910
This series contains an address by Dr. David Snedden titled “Problems of Education” as well as what looks like a response to that address and an address by Mr. Fish.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dedication Ceremony, 1910</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SERIES 10: Memorial Service, 1940**

This series contains two pamphlets from the memorial service for John Thompson, an essay about John Thompson’s life as well as poems, a newspaper article, and other material related to his memorial.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Container Number</th>
<th>Folder Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Service, 1940</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>