

Thetford Historical Society
M 68, OM 31
Related Holdings
BV 170, BV 202, BV 203, SC 152, TA - SLA, TA - EAT

THETFORD ACADEMY

12 Manuscript Boxes, 1 Photo Box, 1 Oversized box

Provenance: Thetford Academy, Slade Collection, private donors

Processed by: Martha Howard, 2005-2006

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Thetford Academy was established in 1819 by a group of Thetford men, who felt strongly that formal education beyond the primary grades should be available to the town's children. The original founders numbered 15, and included such well-known names of the time as Rev. Asa Burton, Judge Jedediah Buckingham, Simeon Short, and Timothy Bartholomew. From the beginning, Thetford Academy was co-educational: this being attributed to the number of educated and strong-minded women living in Thetford at the time, who likely influenced their husbands toward admitting girls to the school from the beginning.

For most of its history, the Academy operated as a boarding school for out-of-town students, as well as the secondary school for Thetford Students. In 1894, state legislation required that towns over 2,500 in population must pay tuition to secondary schools. Though Thetford's population was considerably less than the 2,500 threshold, the Town began paying the Academy that same year. In 1906, state legislation was passed that required all towns to financially support their schools, thus establishing a 'free education' system, and eliminating privately paid tuition.

A devastating fire in 1942 destroyed five buildings on Thetford Hill, including three belonging to the Academy. Then Principal Carl Anderson faced the daunting task of housing existing students while scrambling for classroom space. The campus as it looks today is a result of both the need to rebuild following the fire, and a larger student population. The fire eventually brought about the end of boarding students, though the Academy continues to take non-Thetford students on a tuition basis. The school currently serves grades 7 - 12, and is the oldest secondary school in Vermont.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of 12 manuscript boxes, 1 photo-sized box, and one oversized manuscript box (OM 31) with a number of oversized items.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

BOX 1: PRINCIPALS AND HEADS OF SCHOOL

Folder 1:	Hiram Orcutt - 1842-1855
Folder 2:	Gilbert E. Hood - 1855-1858
Folder 3:	William Skinner Hazen - 1859-1860
Folder 4:	David Turner - 1869 - 1871
Folder 5:	Benjamin Weld - 1881-1884
Folder 6:	William H. Cummings - 1884-1888
Folder 7:	Luman Bowdish - 1899-1905
Folder 8:	James R. Childs - 1905-1908
Folder 9:	Charles A. Guild - 1908-1909
Folder 10:	James T. Taylor - 1919-1920
Folder 11:	Carl Anderson - 1925-1961
Folder 12:	Ruel Barrett - 1961-1977
Folder 13:	Frederick Torrey - 1977-1989
Folder 14:	Robert Brigham
Folder 15:	Martha Jane Rich

BOX 2: TRUSTEES

Folder 1:	Subscription Book Information - 1835 - 1836
Folder 2:	Mary B. Slade's Copy - Secretary's Book, December, 1844
Folder 3:	List of Donors, ca. 1900
Folder 4:	Letter from George Worcester to William Slade re: water - 1903
Folder 5:	Letter from M.S. Colburn to H.P. Cummings re: Principal's salary - 1907
Folder 6:	Proposal - Town to take over TA - 1909 and 1919
Folder 7:	State Board of Education - 1909 to 1950
Folder 8:	Contracts with other towns - 1920, 1928
Folder 9:	Investments - 1929
Folder 10:	Fund-raising - 1929 - 1948
Folder 11:	Building Fund Information - 1932 - 1952
Folder 12:	Fund-raising Pamphlets 1934 - 1994
Folder 13:	Board of Trustees - Proposed By-law changes - 1938
Folder 14:	Trustees' Meeting Minutes and Correspondence - 1939 - 1941
Folder 15:	Letter from Ernest Bond to Frank Ross re: Kinney Family - 1945
Folder 16:	Donors to Anderson Hall - n.d.
Folder 17:	Board of Trustees - Minutes, Lists 1952 - 1971
Folder 18:	Proposal for Summer School - 1951
Folder 19:	Correspondence re: Academy Incorporation - 1957
Folder 20:	Kendall Award - 1957
Folder 21:	Agreement to run a Junior/Senior High School - 1959
Folder 22:	School District re-organization - - T.A. Position - 1967
Folder 23:	Teachers' Salaries - 1973- 1974
Folder 24:	Proposal for Summer School - 1982
Folder 25:	Miscellaneous Correspondence

BOX 3: FINANCIAL #1

- Folder 1: Treasurer's Information
- Folder 2: Misc. Receipts - 1819 - 1870
- Folder 3: Charity Fund Accounting - 1819 - 1820
- Folder 4: Rent bill - 1840
- Folder 5: Invoice from Path and White - 1847
- Folder 6: Receipts, Accounts, etc. - 1844 - 1897
- Folder 7: Bank Statements - 1904 - 1951
- Folder 8: Financial Reports - 1951 - 1974
- Folder 9: Operating Accounts - 1964 - 1975
- Folder 10: Ag. Department - Expense Sheets - 1967 - 1973
- Folder 11: Dartmouth Savings - Paid Mortgages, etc.

BOX 4: FINANCIAL #2

- Folder 1: Misc. Financial Reports - 1919 - 1952
- Folder 2: Treasurer's Reports - 1976 - 1979
- Folder 3: Tuitions - 1973 - 1978

BOX 5: DEEDS, BEQUESTS, MAPS

- Folder 1: Deed: Jasper Lord to Jonathan Moran - TC Meeting House - 1837
- Folder 2: Indenture: Silas Follett and Willard Baker - 1843
- Folder 3: Deed to Justin Morrill - 1844
- Folder 4: Deeds into TA - Various - 1903 - 1976
- Folder 5: Agreement with Arline F. Porter - Water Line - 1905
- Folder 6: Will: Edmund F. Slafter - December 22, 1906
- Folder 7: Deed: TA to Sargent - 1908
- Folder 8: Estate of Minnie Leland - 1947
- Folder 9: Estate of William Smith - 1953
- Folder 10: Bequests to TA - Various - 1953, 1961
- Folder 11: Transfer of land to Elementary School - 1961
- Folder 12: Estate of Elbert Brigham - 1962
- Folder 13: Bequests - Grace Cockcroft (1962), Gardner Cobb (1968), Mary Hoisington (1972)
- Folder 14: Porter Adams Property
- Folder 15: Soil Conservation Service Info- 1947
- Folder 16: Surveys - Thetford Hill State Forest, Goddard Property

BOX 6: PUBLICITY, TA PUBLICATIONS

- Folder 1: Newspaper Clippings - 1880s and 1890s
- Folder 2: Newspaper Clippings - 1930s
- Folder 3: Newspaper Clippings - 1940s
- Folder 4: Newspaper Clippings - Fire - 1942
- Folder 5: Newspaper Clippings - 1950s
- Folder 6: Newspaper Clippings - 1960s
- Folder 7: Newspaper Clippings - 1970s

BOX 6: PUBLICITY, TA PUBLICATIONS, cont.

- Folder 8: Newspaper Clippings - 1980s
- Folder 9: Newspaper Clippings - 1990s
- Folder 10: Newspaper Clippings - 2000s
- Folder 11: Advertisements- Non-newspaper
- Folder 12: Thetford Town Report - Year End 1942 (TA Fire)
- Folder 13: New England Cross Country Championship Brochure - 1992 (at TA)
- Folder 14: Student Publication - "The Challenge" (1928)
- Folder 15: Student Publication - "Kiano" (1940s)
- Folder 16: Student Publication - "The Panther Purrs" (1989)
- Folder 17: Student Publication - "TA Times" (2004)
- Folder 18: Walking Tours by TA Students - n.d.

BOX 7: MARY B. SLADE

- Folder 1: Correspondence
- Folder 2: "A Preface to History - TA"
- Folder 3: Mary B. Slade - Book Notes (TA's First Century)

BOX 8: SCHOOL CATALOGUES

- In chronological order: 1827 - 1903, not complete
- Folder 1: Early Graduation Programs - 1853-1855, complete
- Folder 2: Announcements of Courses at TA - 1864-1911, incomplete

BOX 9: STUDENT ACTIVITIES: Founders' Day, Drama, Music, Anniversaries, etc.

- Folder 1: Theological Society - 1846, Debating Society - 1889 - 1999
- Folder 2: 75th Anniversary and Class Tree Dedication - Class of 1894
- Folder 3: Centennial - 1919
- Folder 4: Echoes of the Class of 1930 - Year book
- Folder 5: "Pre-Freshmen Day" 1938 & 1950
- Folder 6: Publicity, Programs, Student Resolution - White Building - 1948 - 1950
- Folder 7: 125th Anniversary and Class Day Pageant - 1944
- Folder 8: Yearbook - Class of 1947
- Folder 9: VEA Newsletter - 1951
- Folder 10: Sesquicentennial - 1969
- Folder 11: VT Life Article on TA - Autumn, 1978
- Folder 12: Building Dedications, Programs
- Folder 13: Programs - Dramatic Productions
- Folder 14: Programs - Recitation
- Folder 15: Programs - Musical Productions
- Folder 16: Founders' Day Programs
- Folder 17: Misc. Programs - Music, Dress Revue

BOX 10: WRITINGS: CORRESPONDENCE, SCHOOL WORK, SPEECHES

- Folder 1: Early Graduation Speeches - n.d.
- Folder 2: Samples of School Work - unidentified
- Folder 3: Letter: Joshua Bates to John Fitch - 1820
- Folder 4: Letter: Edward Chase to parents, Hiram Orcutt to Judge Short - 1855

BOX 10: WRITINGS: CORRESPONDENCE, SCHOOL WORK, SPEECHES, cont.

- Folder 5: Thetford History - Page Family Letters - 1836 (copies)
- Folder 6: Student Letters - 1850s
- Folder 7: Letter: Jennie DeCordova to Eveline Sturdevant - November 8, 1854
- Folder 8: Re: Civil War Diary of TA Student Abel Conant (at VT Hist. Society)
- Folder 9: Brief History of TA by student Mary E. Slade, @ TA 1889-1893
- Folder 10: Mary E. Slade - Compositions, Grade Reports
- Folder 11: Correspondence - 1893
- Folder 12: Correspondence - 1894
- Folder 13: Correspondence - 1895 - 1900
- Folder 14: Class Song - Class of 1896, Graduation Speech, n.d. (1890s?)
- Folder 15: Bronze Tablet Dedication - C.F. Latham - May 24, 1905
- Folder 16: Class History - Class of 1907
- Folder 17: Student Register - 1900-1915 (copied by Mary B. Slade)
- Folder 18: Rev. William Slade - Correspondence - 1912-1913
- Folder 19: "The Full Divinity of Christ" - 1914 - by C. Caverno - TA Student
- Folder 20: Student Petition/Preceptress Resignation - 1916
- Folder 20: Teaching Contract - Beatrice Blodgett (1931)
- Folder 21: Letter: Grace Gallaudet Closson to TA - 1938
- Folder 22: Info on Peacham Academy - 1797 - 1971
- Folder 23: "A Plan of Cooperative Living at TA" - 1943 - by Agnes Shaw, Teacher
- Folder 24: Christmas Cards sent by TA - 1949 - 1955
- Folder 25: Dorothea Bond - Notes and Correspondence - 1952
- Folder 26: Letter: Richard Fowle to Dr. T.D. Bassett @ UVM re: TA Engraving-1962
- Folder 27: Correspondence - Home Economics - 1966-1967

BOX 11: ALUMNI

- Folder 1: Graduation and Reunion Reply Cards - 1893
- Folder 2: Graduation and Reunion Reply Cards - 1894 (75th Anniversary)
- Folder 3: List of Alumni Addresses - 1893 - 1895 (classes 1845-1857)
- Folder 4: Alumni Association - 1908 - 1948
- Folder 5: Lists of Students - 1926 - 1930
- Folder 6: Misc. Alumni Correspondence - 1932, 1962
- Folder 7: Alumni Banquet - Programs - 1872-1874
- Folder 8: Alumni Newsletters - 1943 - 1994
- Folder 9: Alumni Mailing List - March, 1988

BOX 12: PHOTOGRAPHS

- Folder 1: Class Groups
- Folder 2: TA Students: A-C
- Folder 3: TA Students: D-G
- Folder 4: TA Students: H-L
- Folder 5: TA Students: M-Q
- Folder 6: TA Students: R-T
- Folder 7: TA Students U-Z
- Folder 8: Engraving of TA by Charles Meadows and Artist Biography and stationery with engraving, ca. 1850. See SC152 for two framed engravings.

BOX 12: PHOTOGRAPHS, cont.

- Folder 9: Class of 1916: Graduation Photo, 20-yr and 50-yr reunion photo
- Folder 10: Assorted TA Slides - Buildings, Documents, Groups

BOX 13:

Chronological sampling of Graduation programs, Class Day programs, Invitations, Prize Speaking programs, Prom invitations and dance cards - earliest 1884 through 1969. Incomplete.

OM 31

- Folder 1: "The Experiment" Student Newspaper - Two Issues from 1850s, and Lucy L. Ball Diploma, 1854
- Folder 2: Posters of Events at TA
- Folder 3: Deeds - Truman Burr - 1845-1862
- Folder 4: Deeds to Slafter Hall - 1906
- Folder 5: Deeds: Quimby, Hiram Sloan
- Folder 6: Porter Adams - 1902-1929
- Folder 7: Sports Team and Student Club Photos
- Folder 8: Class Photos