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**DROPPERS, GARRETT**

PAPERS, 1899-1906  
(bulk dates, 1900-1905)  
Quantity .5 linear ft.

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PROCESSED BY: Gayla Koerting, January 2004

## History

Garrett Droppers was born on April 12, 1860 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He earned a Bachelors of Arts degree in 1897 from Harvard University. Droppers had been a teacher of economics at the National University of Tokyo for ten years when assuming the presidency at USD in 1899. His presidency began under auspicious political and economic circumstances. Politics threatened to invade the policies of the Board of Regents and USD. Droppers was a liberal Democrat with Populist leanings just when conservatives began to dominate state politics at the turn of the twentieth century. His administration also confronted declining enrollments due to a nationwide economic depression after the Spanish American War. Moreover, internal dissension began to emerge among faculty members. It was during his administration that engineering courses were started and the College of Law was established. In addition, he replaced the three term system with two semesters and began finding featured speakers for commencement ceremonies. Droppers would also be the last president to teach classes on a regular basis. USD conferred an honorary doctoral degree upon Droppers in June 1905, but he resigned from the position several months later. After leaving USD, he taught economics at the University of Chicago and Williams College, became a U.S. minister to Greece during World War I, and was a visiting professor in Japan before his death on July 7, 1927 in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

## Scope and Content Note

The Garrett Droppers Collection is composed of three series: **Correspondence, Faculty Minutes, and Misc.**

The largest series in the Droppers Collection is the **Correspondence** series. This series contains letters written by individuals requesting a catalog of courses or seeking admission into the university. There is also correspondence sent from high school principals and superintendents regarding inquiries concerning their graduation requirements and course of study. Some of the correspondence is addressed to members of the Board of Regents regarding financial issues for the university. General correspondence is contained in folders by alphabetical order. Incoming and outgoing correspondence for a person with more than 2 letters are contained in one folder; these are listed directly after "General" files.

The **Faculty Minutes** series contains the minutes for university faculty meetings; these meetings were convened by the President's Office during this period. These are found in Box 1.

The **Misc.** series contains ephemera such as faculty salary list, newspaper clippings, articles, certificates, and the photocopy of a 1966 letter regarding Droppers' administration.

### Additional Resources

Cummins, Cedric. *The University of South Dakota, 1862-1966*. Vermillion: University of South Dakota Press, 1975.

Droppers, Garrett. "A Japanese Credit Association and Its Founder," *Asiatic Society in Japan*, 22(1894) 69-102.

Droppers, Garrett, *Outlines of Economic History in the Nineteenth Century: A Textbook for Colleges*. New York: Ronald Press Company, 1923

Droppers, Garrett. "The Population of Japan in the Tokugawa Period," *Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan*, 22(1894) 253-284.

Political Graveyard Website. Index to Politicians and U. S. Political Biography,  
< <http://politicalgraveyard.com/bio/driver-dryzga.html#RJU0PBFJK> >

Schopenhauer, Arthur, Garrett Droppers, and Charles August Paul Dachsels. *Select Essays of Arthur Schopenhauer*. Milwaukee: Sentinel Company, 1881.

### Subjects: University of South Dakota. President—Archives

Droppers, Garrett, 1899-1905—Archives.

University of South Dakota – History—19<sup>th</sup> century—Sources

College presidents—South Dakota—Vermillion--Archives

#### CORRESPONDENCE (25 folders)

##### **Box 1**

General "B" (4 folders)

Beaty, Herbert

1902, Sept. 17

Bigelow, A. H.

1905, Oct. 10

Blyman, J. C.

1905, Nov. 16

Bookman, Murray

1902, Sept. 16

Byers, J. R.

1904, Sept. 14

Beebe, M. Plin (3 items)

1901, Sept. 4

1901, Sept. 7

1903, July 17

Brenne, Alice H. (2 items)

1903, June 29

1903, Aug. 27

**Box 1 cont.**

CORRESPONDENCE, cont.

Byrne, Mary (2 items)

1902, May 23

1902, Oct. 25

General "C" (2 folders)

Carson, Hazel

1904, Sept. 8

Chamberlain, Frank

1904, Sept. 12

Chaussee, Lulu

1904, Sept. 12

Collins, Edward E., State Supt. Of Public Instruction

n.d.

"Cuppett, Mr."

1905, Feb. 15

Cusick, John

1904, Sept. 12

Catherine, Sister Mary (2 items)

1905, Oct. 13

1905, Oct. 13

General "D" (1 folder)

Dailey, J. W.

1905, Sept. 28

Doolittle, Grace

1904, Jan. 14

Droppers, Garrett, USD President

1899, Dec. 8

General "E" (1 folder)

Ede, Ernest D.

1905, Sept. 27

Elliot, J. Kentner

1903, Jan. 30

Ellis, J. S.

1905, Sept. 29

General "F" (2 folders)

Fellows, David

1902, Sept. 13

Fleming, J. E

1905, Oct. 2

"Frazer, Mr."

1904, Sept. 19

Frudenberg, Arthur

1902, Sept. 19

Fuller, Howard G. (2 items)

1903, May 6

1903, April 29

General "G" (1 folder)

Garner, Robert L.

1904, Jan. 22

Given, W. S.

1905, March 28

Good, Harry

1904, Sept. 12

**Box 1 cont.**

CORRESPONDENCE, cont

Grange, Mildred  
1902, Nov. 6  
General "H" (1 folder)  
Hadley, Albert  
1903, Sept. 18  
Hadley, Bessie  
1902, Dec. 17  
General "J" (1 folder),  
Jones, J.  
1903, Sept. 21  
General "L" (1 folder)  
Laub, Willis E.  
1905, Sept. 9  
General "M"  
Meek, W. H.  
1905, Sept. 28  
Melby, Gustav  
1905, May 31  
Myron, Ole C. (2 itmes)  
1903, April 20  
1903, May 5  
General "N" (1 folder)  
Norgren, Anna  
1903, April 17  
General "R" (2 folders)  
Raish, A. W.  
1899, July 25  
Reid, Mabel (2 items)  
1900, Sept. 19  
1901, Sept. 1  
General "S" (1 folder)  
Sargent, Minnie G.  
1901, Sept. 16  
Sayre, Benjamin  
1899, Jan. 13  
Schultz, Mabel  
1904, Sept. 12  
Schultz, Rosa  
1902, Oct. 1  
Seymour, A. H.  
1905, Sept. 26  
Sheldon, Nellie  
1904, July 29  
Simpson, Caroline  
n.d.  
Simpson, Fred  
1902, Sept. 17  
Sloan, Edith  
1904, Sept. 12  
Sloan, Trudy  
1902, March 17

**Box 1 cont.**

CORRESPONDENCE, cont

Spinsely (?), Dosa  
1902, March 17  
State of South Dakota, Sec. of State  
1905, Dec. 7  
State Agricultural College  
1905, Dec. 26  
Strachan, Alexander  
1905, Sept. 28  
Sweezy, Bernice  
1904, Sept. 6  
General "T" (2 folders)  
Todd, Eugene  
1904, Sept. 22  
Todd, J. E., Acting USD President  
1898, Nov. 1  
Tollefson, Maude  
1904, Feb.  
Turney, Day  
1903, Sept. 12  
Thompson, Tollef B. (2 items)  
1902, Feb. 5  
1902, March 26  
General "V" (1 folder)  
Valgren, V. N.  
1905, Oct. 11  
General "W" (1 folder)  
Wickersham, E. B.  
1905, Nov. 27  
Wilcox, Fred  
1901, Oct. 31  
Woodbert, Ethelbert C.  
1905, Sept. 27  
General "Y" (1 folder)  
Young, Lillian  
1905, Sept. 20

FACULTY MINUTES (1 folder)  
1903-1905

MISC. (1 folder)

Articles

Who's Who, 1920

South Dakota Alumni Quarterly, Oct. 1905

Williams Alumni Review, 16(March 1924)

South Dakota Alumnus, 23 (July 1927)

South Dakota Alumnus, August 1927

Williams Alunmi Review, 20 (Oct. 1927)

National Cyclopaedia of American Biography, 1928

Harvard College, Fiftieth Anniversary of the Class of  
1886, Boston: Linotype Printing Co., 1936.

Certificate-Otto Weedfall

1902, June 17

Letter, photocopy

Boot, Estella M.  
1966, July 22  
Newspaper Clippings  
n.d.  
1903, Sept. 24, Dakota Republican  
Salary List, USD Faculty  
1899, Dec.