

Stewart Bell Jr. Archives
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P.O. Box 58, Winchester, Virginia 22604
Tel.: (540) 662-9041, ext. 17 • Email: archives@handleyregional.org
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Winchester High School Records
Collection Number: 670 WFCHS

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS: Collection is open to all researchers.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE: Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Initially processed in 1987. Last updated February 8, 2024.

EXTENT: 0.25 linear feet

CREATOR: Winchester High School

DATE: 1895-1923

SCOPE AND CONTENT: The Winchester High School Records collection includes diplomas, broadsides, commencement programs, and report cards from Winchester High School, which was located in the John Kerr Public School building and operated from 1884 to 1923.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL: Upon his death in 1855, Winchester resident John Kerr bequeathed funds intended to provide for the education of “the poor white children of Winchester.” The funds went to the building of a new school building at the southwest corner of Boscawen and Cameron Streets. Construction began in 1883 with the laying of the cornerstone and was completed in 1884. In 1895 the building officially became the John Kerr School.

The school’s principal, Captain John Crawford Van Fossen, a veteran of the 14th Virginia Cavalry, held his position until his death in 1904. In 1910 the school began to offer a four-year high school. The class of 1919 was the last graduating class before students moved to the newly built John Handley High School in 1923. In the intervening years, students attended classes in temporary buildings at the campus of John Handley High School. Both Winchester High School and John Handley High School were segregated until 1959.

RELATED MATERIAL: John Handley High School Records, 145 WFCHS/THL

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Materials acquired as gifts from several donors.

CONTAINER LIST:

BOX 1

Baccalaureate Service, 1920

Commencement Exercises, Programs, 1918, 1920, 1921, 1922 (3 copies)

Tardy note, May 5, 1922 (mimeograph)

Report Card, George Good, Sept 3, 1917- June 11, 1918, 4th grade

Certificates for completion of courses, Commercial Accounting and Booking, John Crammer, 1923

Broadside for Free Night School, 1920

[Physical Location: Oversize Box 13]

Diplomas, 1895, 1920

- Diploma of Rena Frye, 1895
- Diploma of Ella Orndorff, 1895
- Diploma of Elizabeth Kurtz, 1895
- Diploma of Ruth Teresa Haines, 1920

[Physical Location: Oversize Box 13]

The Trail Blazer (Winchester High School newsletter)

- April 1, 1922

- June, 1922

[Physical Location: Oversize Box 13]