

Hopwood Correspondence 1868-1936

Milligan College Archives and
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INTRODUCTION

Title: Hopwood Correspondence

Collection Number: 33

Physical Description: Approx. 16 linear feet of vertical files

Creator: Josephus and Sarah Eleanor LaRue Hopwood

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Provenance: The Hopwood Correspondence materials were found in several boxes kept in a garage near the old Milligan post office. When the garage was torn down in 1955, Mr. Milan, Superintendent of Buildings, brought the boxes to the attention of Librarian John Neth. The boxes were brought into the library and presumably turned over into the care of the Archives upon its creation.

Access: The collection is open for research.

Processing Information: When found, the boxes of Hopwood Correspondence presumably had no distinguishable order to them. According to the November 25, 1955, *Stampede*, the materials included Josephus Hopwood's tie, copies of his autobiography, photographs, Josephus' death certificate and honorary degrees along with the correspondence. Librarian John Neth took an "electric sweeper" to the collection to rid it of loose dirt, insects, and rodent droppings. The correspondence was then treated with insect powder, reboxed, and stored in the library. It is unclear what kind of reorganization or weeding was done at that time. Certainly the 75 copies of Josephus' autobiography were removed - some of the copies were incorporated into the library's book collection - and the photographs were taken out. There is good reason to believe that materials separated from the correspondence were later gathered together and given the name "Hopwood II Collection." In the 1970s, Dr. Tim Dillon (then a student at Milligan), sorted the correspondence chronologically, foldered, labeled, and stored it in vertical files. The materials are in relatively sound condition. Some letters have been placed in Mylar and some have had metal fasteners removed, but at this point, little preservation or restorative work has been done. In the late 1990s an indexing/summarization project began to note the names of senders and recipients of each letter, as well as its basic contents and any events or names that might be mentioned in the body of the correspondence. What has been finished of this project is linked below.

For more information see the *Stampede*, November 25, 1955, page 2.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Hopwood Correspondence spans from 1868 to 1936, though the years from 1868 to about 1881 consist of only a handful of letters when compared to the volume of later years. The Correspondence includes everything from letters between Josephus and Sarah Eleanor to requests for information about Milligan and Virginia Christian College, from correspondence from old students to insurance claim information. The Hopwood Correspondence has not been broken into series, though work continues to summarize each letter. What has been completed of the summaries is linked below.

SUMMARIES OF THE HOPWOOD CORRESPONDENCE

[1868 to 1879](#)

[1880 to 1889](#)

[1910 to 1919](#) (In progress. Currently complete through January 1911.)