

Hb. School - Black re Gaston School @ A & M
4A16 Folder 11 Query

307 Love Avenue, S.W.
Huntsville, Alabama
May 14, 1968

Dr. Frances Roberts
603 Randolph Avenue S.E.
Huntsville, Alabama

Dear Dr. Roberts,

As you may recall, the Gaston school was moved to grounds owned by Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College more than three years ago. Rev. Hart told me, before he passed, that some organization was going to take over the financing of the development of the project. He said that the plan was to equip the building with 19th century furnishings and to put a fence around it.

It seems that the little building is just another burden placed upon Dr. Morrison. Will you tell me whom I should contact concerning this matter. I wonder if the Huntsville Historical Society will consider the little building.

yours truly,
(Mrs.) Marguerite D. Lacey

Names:

Alabama A & M
Gaston School

Hart, Rev.

Lacey, Marguerite D.,
Mrs.

Morrison, Dr.
Roberts, Frances, Dr.

Places:

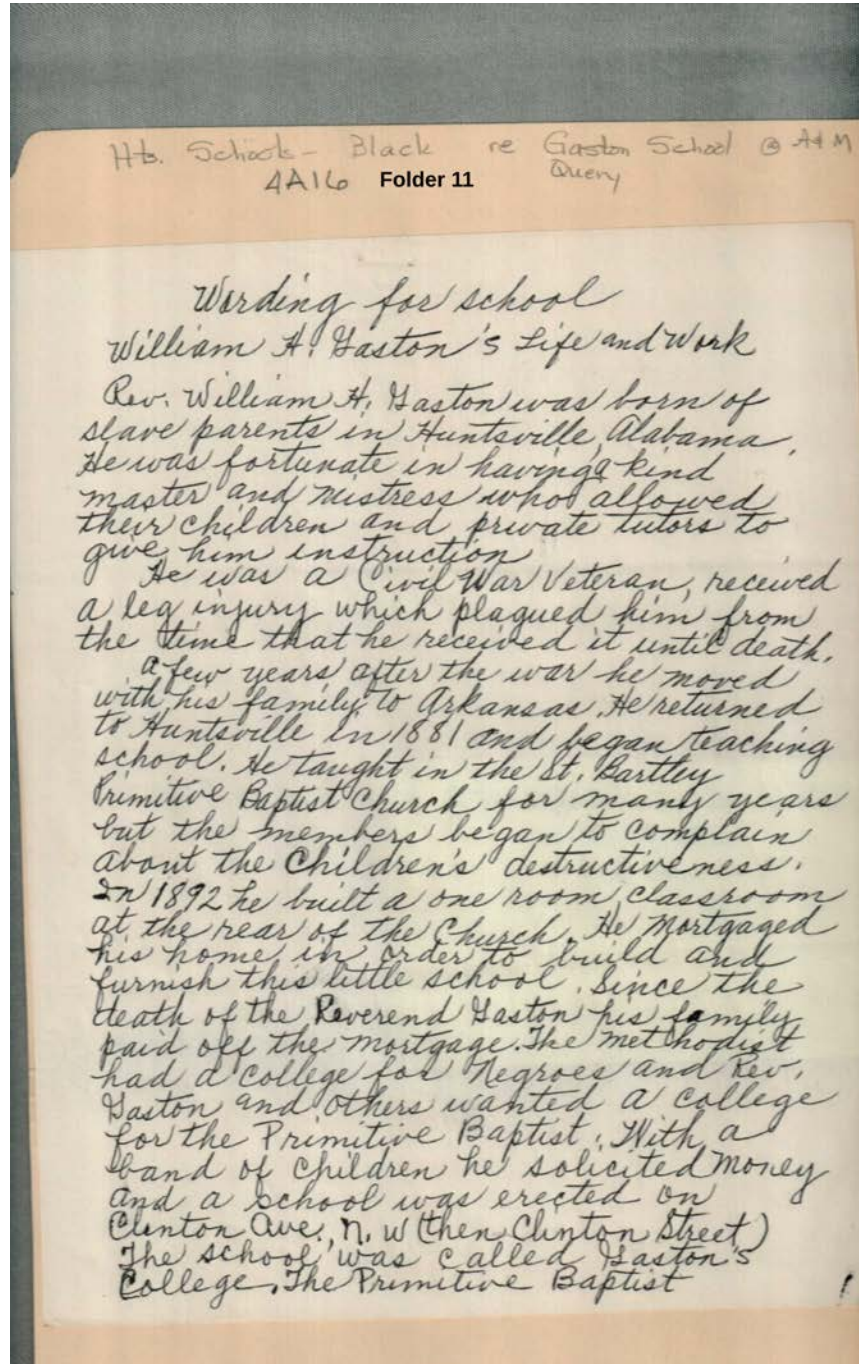
Huntsville, AL

Types:

correspondence

Dates:

May 14, 1968



Names:

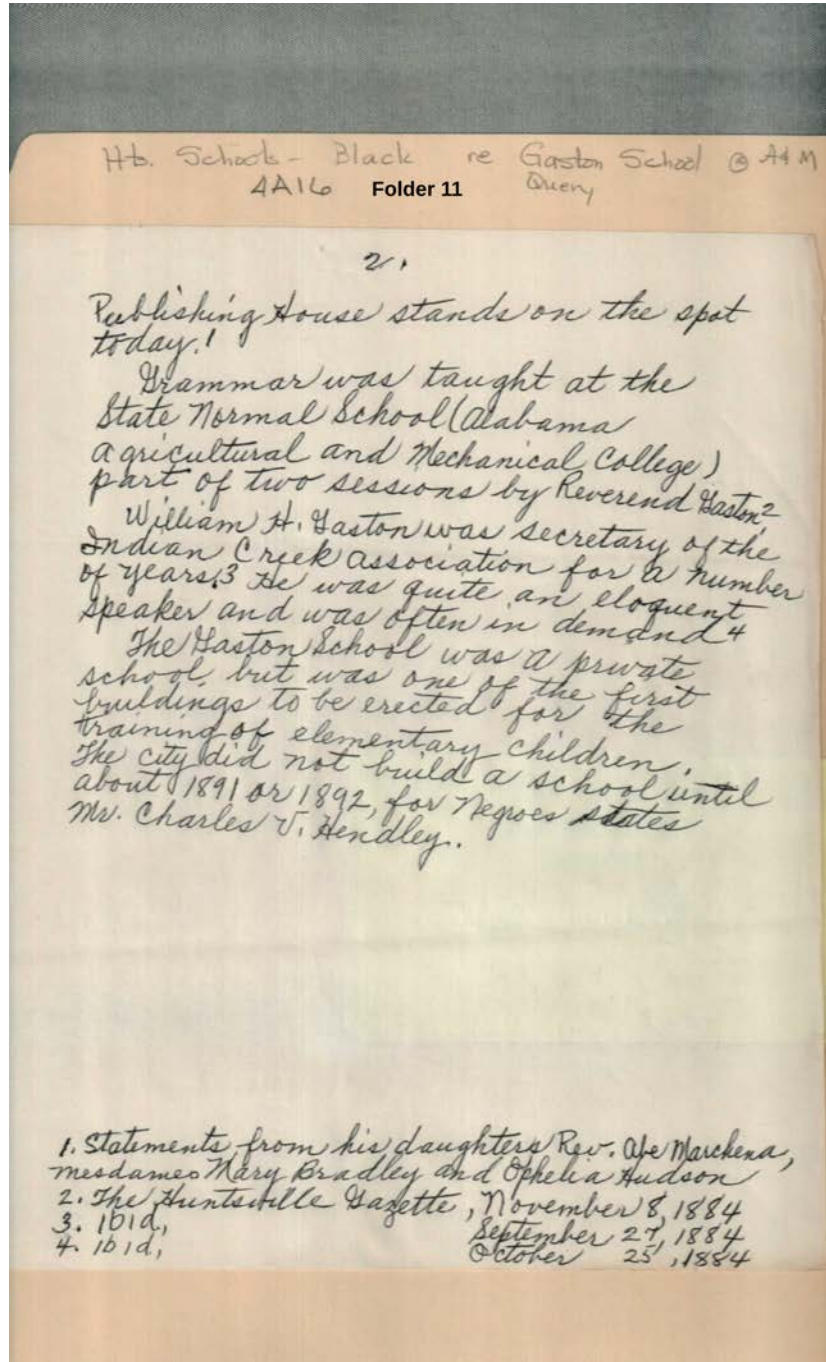
Gaston, William H.,
Rev.

Gaston's College

St. Bartley Primitive
Baptist Church

Types:

essay



Names:

Bradley, Mary
Gaston, William H.,
Rev.
Hendley, Charles V.

Hudson, Ophelia
Indian Creek
Association
Marchena, Abe, Rev.

Primitive Baptist
Publishing House
State Normal School

The Huntsville
Gazette

Types:

essay

Hb. School - Black re Gaston School @ A4 M
4A16 Folder 11 Query

3.

In August 1884 Rev. Gaston made one of his speeches at Lakeside Methodist Church in interest of education. This significant statement was made, "we may talk, grumble, go to the box and vote, but our grievances must continue until by industry and thrift and education we command power and respectability, to remove them".

He further stated that 'education without principle is no education. Principle must be there and character or it is worthless'.⁵

Reverend Gaston was a member of the City Council from Ward 4 for six years. He served from 1883 to 1889.⁶

In 1887 Rev. Gaston introduced a resolution, which was passed by the regular Council meeting, to straighten and raise the west bank of Pinhook Creek below Clinton Street so as to avert the overflow of water, work was begun immediately.⁷

5. Huntsville Gazette, August 30, 1884
6. Huntsville Gazette, Issues for March and April 1883-1889
7. ibid., November 26, 1887

Names:

City Council
Gaston, Rev.

The Huntsville
Gazette

Types:

essay

Hb. School - Black re Gaston School @ A.M.
4A16 Folder 11 Query

4.

In the Council meeting for November 1888 Rev Gaston reported that the Negro School needed desks and the building needed to be more comfortable, Reported Negro Cemetery needed attention and streets in Negro area had need for filling of water holes. He refused to run for election in 1889 because of poor health. The matter of declining was against the wishes of his friends.

In 1885 he offered a resolution that a committee of 3 be appointed to try purchasing a lot for a school for Negro children. At this time children of both races were taught in halls and churches. The white school was built a little before the negro school.¹⁰

Reverend Gaston was also a Claim Agent, recommissioned by the Secretary of the Treasury Department with power to prosecute claims against the government for bounty, pensions and arrears of pay.¹¹

One of the daughters of Rev. Gaston, Rev. Marchena says that he passed in 1903. His last years of teaching were on Clinton Avenue (then Clinton Street) on the spot where the Primitive Baptist Publishing House stands.

8. The Huntsville Gazette, November 24, 1888
9. The Huntsville Gazette, March 30, 1889.
10. The Huntsville Gazette, April 11, 1885
11. The Huntsville Gazette, March 20, 1886

Names:

Gaston, Rev.
Marchena, Rev.

Negro Cemetery
Negro School

Negro Streets

The Huntsville
Gazette

Types:

essay

Hb. Schools - Black re Gaston School @ A.M.
4A16 Folder 11 Query

301 Howe Avenue, S.W.
Huntsville, Alabama
August 3, 1965

Dr. Frances Roberts
University of Alabama Center
Huntsville, Alabama

Dear Dr. Roberts:

In sending in my sketch of
Rev. Gaston I left out one fact which
I think is pertinent. Not only did he
teach boys and girls in elementary
and high school but he taught
adults at night. Many instances
are mentioned in the Huntsville
Gazette where he was out of class
because of his old Civil War leg
injury. There were occasions when
his term was out at his school
then he taught in the public school
system, in the barracks,
(I do not know where the barracks
were.) from Huntsville Gazette 1886, I
failed to get the month.

Very truly yours,
(Mrs.) M. D. Lacey

Names:

Gaston, Rev.

Lacey, Marguerite D.,
Mrs.

Roberts, Frances, Dr.

The Huntsville
Gazette

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

correspondence

Dates:

Aug 03, 1965

Hb. School - Black re Gaston School @ A.M.
4A16 Folder 11 Queeny

St. Bartley Corporation
Record ~~Book~~ 2 - Page 238
Certificate of Incorporation of Saint Bartley's
Primitive Baptist Church of Huntsville,
Madison County Alabama.

We, the undersigned Jack McCrosky,
Allen Boone, Aik Rice, Frank Mastin,
C. H. Ware, Dock Davis and Felix Jordan,
trustees of St. Bartley's Primitive Baptist
Church of Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama,
do hereby certify, that the members
of said church, desiring to be incorpo-
rated under the laws of Alabama,
and to perpetuate in an enduring
form the name of a devoted servant
of Christ, Reverend Bartley Harris, who
for 40 years served this church and
its people as its revered and respected
pastor, did meet at the Primitive
Baptist Church in said city, on Oak Avenue,
and selected as the name for said
Church and religious association,
Saint Bartley's Primitive Baptist Church
of Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama,
and did, at the same place and
time, to-wit, on the 9th day of May
1908, elect us, the undersigned as
trustees of said Corporation or

Names:

Boone, Allen
Davis, Dock
Harris, Bartley, Rev.

Jordan, Felix
Mastin, Frank
McCrosky, Jack

Rice, Aik
St. Bartley
Corporation

St. Bartley Primitive
Baptist Church
Ware, C. H.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

incorporation

Dates:

May 09, 1908

Hb. School - Black re Gaston School @ A.M.
4A16 Folder 11 Query

2.
religious association, to serve for
a term of six years and until our
successors are elected and
qualified.
In witness whereof, we do
hereto subscribe this certificate
with our names, as said trustees,
and filed the same for record
in the office of Probate Judge of
said County of Madison, State of Alabama

Jack Mc. Crosky
Allen Boone
Aik Rice
Frank Mastin
C. H. Ware
Dock Davis
Felix Jordan

Trustees of Saint Bartley's Primitive
Baptist Church, of Huntsville, Madison
County Alabama.

To Jack Mc. Crosky, Allen Boone,
Aik Rice, Frank Mastin, C. H. Ware,
Dock Davis and Felix Jordan: - Know
ye, that you, and your associates
and successors are only organized
as a Corporation under the name
of Saint Bartley's Primitive Baptist Church
of Huntsville Alabama

Names:

Boone, Allen
Davis, Dock
Jordan, Felix

Mastin, Frank
McCrosky, Jack
Rice, Aik

St. Bartley Primitive
Baptist Church
Ware, C. H.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

incorporation

HB. School - Black re Gaston School @ A.M.
4A16 Folder 11 Query

3

and for the purposes expressed
in the declaration of incorporation,
having the powers, capacities and
authority conferred by law, that said
corporation, has in all respects duly
organized according to law, as appears
from the declaration which is on
file in this office

Witness my hand and seal
of the Court of Probate of Madison
County Alabama this 9th day of May 1908
W. T. Lawler
Judge of Probate

The foregoing instrument in writing
was filed in the office of the judge
of Probate of Madison County Alabama
May 8, 1908 and recorded
W. T. Lawler, Judge of Probate

This information was obtained
from the County Court House by
(Mrs.) Marguerite D. Lacey

Names:

Lacey, Marguerite D.,
Mrs.

Lawler, W. T.,
Probate Judge

Places:

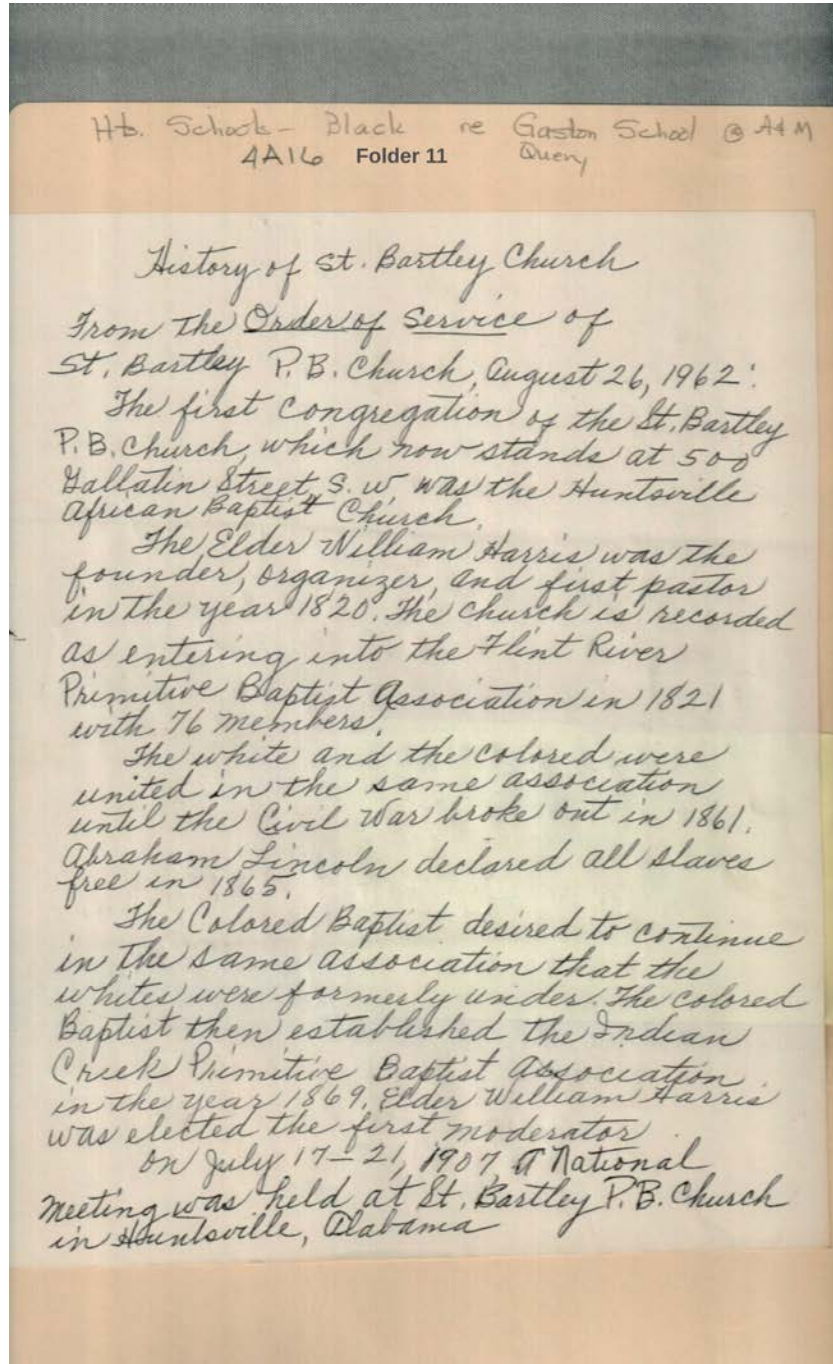
Madison County, AL

Types:

incorporation

Dates:

May 08, 1908



Names:

Flint River Primitive Baptist Association
 Harris, William, Elder

Huntsville African Baptist Church
 Indian Creek Primitive Baptist

Association
 Lincoln, Abraham
 St. Bartley Church
 History

St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church

Types:

essay

Dates:

1820
 1821

1869
 Aug 26, 1962

Jul 17, 1907

Hb. Schools - Black re Gaston School @ A.M.
4A16 Folder 11 Query

2

for the purpose of organizing a National Association of Colored Primitive Baptist in a National Conventional body.

The St. Bartley P.B. Church is now 141 years old. Ministers serving as pastors during this period are as follows:

Elder William Harris, Elder Bartley Harris, Elder Felix Jordan, Elder Eli Patton, Elder Richard Moore, all of whom are deceased. The present pastor Elder Amos Robinson has served the church since 1950.

Deacons of the church are as follows:

J. E. Jackson, John W. Laughinghouse, Lawrence Ward, W. L. Cawthorn, W. B. Moore Orlando Humphrey and Robert Garner

The following information was obtained from Deacon Orlando Humphrey: Newly ordained deacons are John Laughinghouse, Jr., Dinsmore Robinson and Perry Watkins

Names:

Cawthorn, W. L.
Garner, Robert
Harris, Bartley, Rev.
Harris, William, Elder
Humphrey, Orlando
Jackson, T. E.

Jordan, Felix, Elder
Laughinghouse, John
W.
Laughinghouse, John
W., Jr.

Moore, Richard,
Elder
Moore, W. B.
Natl. Assn of Colored
Primitive Baptist
Patton, Eli, Elder

Robinson, Amos,
Elder
Robinson, Dinsmore
Ward, Lawrence
Watkins, Perry

Types:

essay

Hb. Schools - Black re Gaston School @ A+M
4A16 Folder 11 Query

From Deed Book 80 - Page 78
The lot on Henry Street was bought
from Felix M. Taylor and wife
Frances Taylor for \$800.00 in
cash, sold to the pastor, deacons
and their heirs. The lot had a
66 foot frontage. The name of
the church was Colored Baptist
when it was first built on Henry
Street. The purchase procedures were
Notarized by Robert W. Figg, Justice
of Peace, February 28, 1870

The Huntsville Gazette, a Negro newspaper, November 1881,
states that the membership of
Saint Bartley's Primitive Baptist Church
was 2068

Study guide

Names:

Colored Baptist
Church

Figg, Robert W.,
Justice of Peace

Taylor, Felix M.
Taylor, Frances

The Huntsville
Gazette

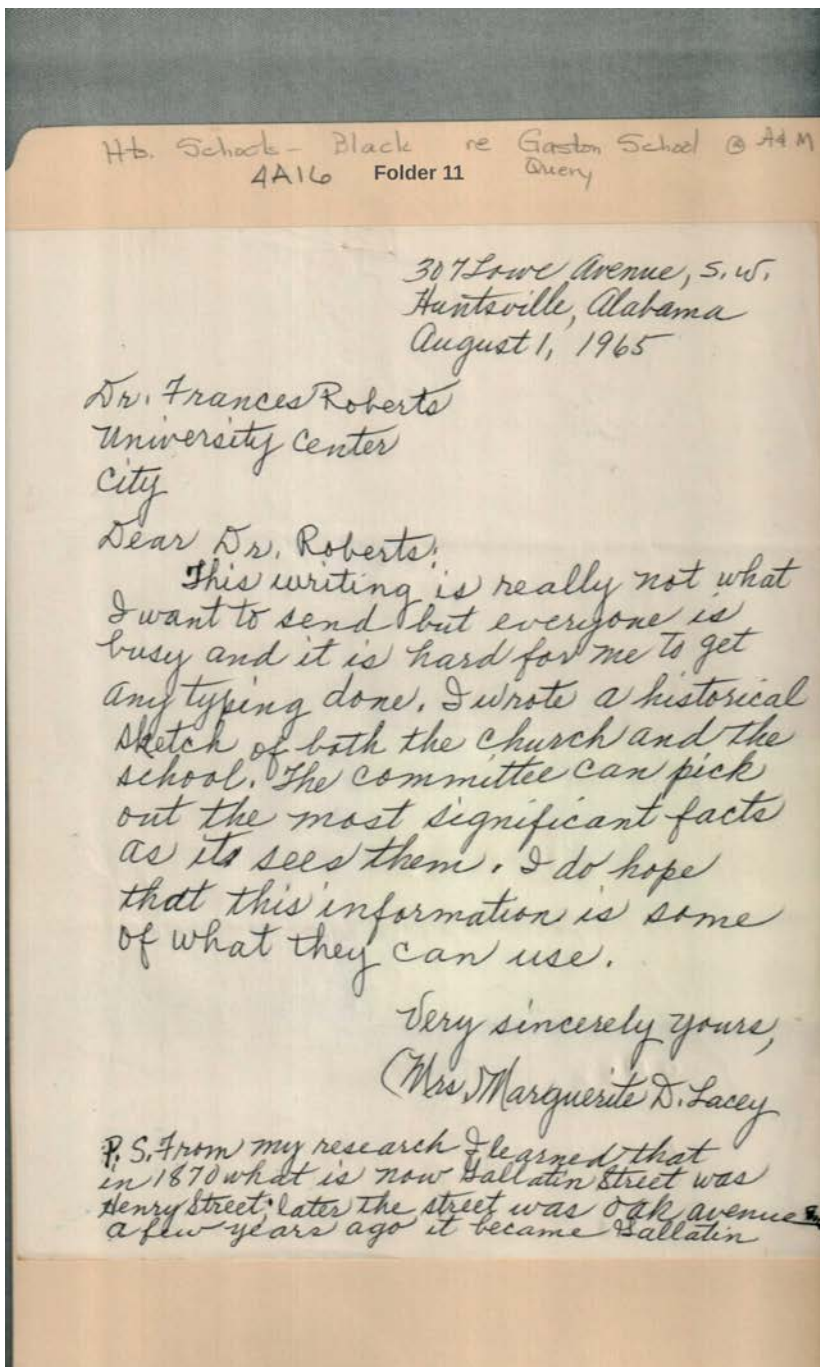
Types:

essay

Dates:

Feb 28, 1870

Nov 1881



Names:

Lacey, Marguerite D.,
Mrs.

Roberts, Frances, Dr.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

correspondence

Dates:

Aug 01, 1965

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 16, Folder 11
Gaston School Report and Correspondence by Lacey, Marguerite, 1965 -1968 - Black Schools

[Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

Table of Contents

[Image 1](#) (r04a16-11-000-0130)

[Image 2](#) (r04a16-11-000-0131)

[Image 3](#) (r04a16-11-000-0132)

[Image 4](#) (r04a16-11-000-0133)

[Image 5](#) (r04a16-11-000-0134)

[Image 6](#) (r04a16-11-000-0135)

[Image 7](#) (r04a16-11-000-0137)

[Image 8](#) (r04a16-11-000-0138)

[Image 9](#) (r04a16-11-000-0139)

[Image 10](#) (r04a16-11-000-0140)

[Image 11](#) (r04a16-11-000-0141)

[Image 12](#) (r04a16-11-000-0142)

[Image 13](#) (r04a16-11-000-0143)

[Table of Contents](#)

[Name & Place Index](#)

[About the Collection](#)

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 16, Folder 11
Gaston School Report and Correspondence by Lacey, Marguerite, 1965 -1968 - Black Schools
[Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

Name & Place Index

Alabama A & M [1](#)
Boone, Allen [7](#), [8](#)
Bradley, Mary [3](#)
Cawthorn, W. L. [11](#)
City Council [4](#)
Colored Baptist Church [12](#)
Davis, Dock [7](#), [8](#)
Figg, Robert W., Justice of Peace [12](#)
Flint River Primitive Baptist Association [10](#)
Garner, Robert [11](#)
Gaston School [1](#)
Gaston's College [2](#)
Gaston, Rev. [4](#), [5](#), [6](#)
Gaston, William H., Rev. [2](#), [3](#)
Harris, Bartley, Rev. [7](#), [11](#)
Harris, William, Elder [10](#), [11](#)
Hart, Rev. [1](#)
Hendley, Charles V. [3](#)
Hudson, Ophelia [3](#)
Humphrey, Orlando [11](#)
Huntsville African Baptist Church [10](#)
Huntsville, AL [1](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [13](#)
Indian Creek Association [3](#)
Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association [10](#)
Jackson, T. E. [11](#)
Jordan, Felix, Elder [11](#)
Jordan, Felix [7](#), [8](#)
Lacey, Marguerite D., Mrs. [1](#), [6](#), [9](#), [13](#)
Laughinghouse, John W., Jr. [11](#)
Laughinghouse, John W. [11](#)
Lawler, W. T., Probate Judge [9](#)
Lincoln, Abraham [10](#)
Madison County, AL [9](#)
Marchena, Abe, Rev. [3](#)
Marchena, Rev. [5](#)
Mastin, Frank [7](#), [8](#)
McCrosky, Jack [7](#), [8](#)
Moore, Richard, Elder [11](#)
Moore, W. B. [11](#)
Morrison, Dr. [1](#)
Nat'l. Assn of Colored Primitive Baptist [11](#)
Negro Cemetery [5](#)
Negro School [5](#)
Negro Streets [5](#)
Patton, Eli, Elder [11](#)
Primitive Baptist Publishing House [3](#)
Rice, Aik [7](#), [8](#)
Roberts, Frances, Dr. [1](#), [6](#), [13](#)
Robinson, Amos, Elder [11](#)
Robinson, Dinsmore [11](#)
St. Bartley Church History [10](#)
St. Bartley Corporation [7](#)
St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church [2](#), [7](#), [8](#), [10](#)
State Normal School [3](#)
Taylor, Felix M. [12](#)
Taylor, Frances [12](#)
The Huntsville Gazette [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [12](#)
Ward, Lawrence [11](#)
Ware, C. H. [7](#), [8](#)
Watkins, Perry [11](#)

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

Preferred Citation: Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

Collection Scope and Content: The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions: None

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