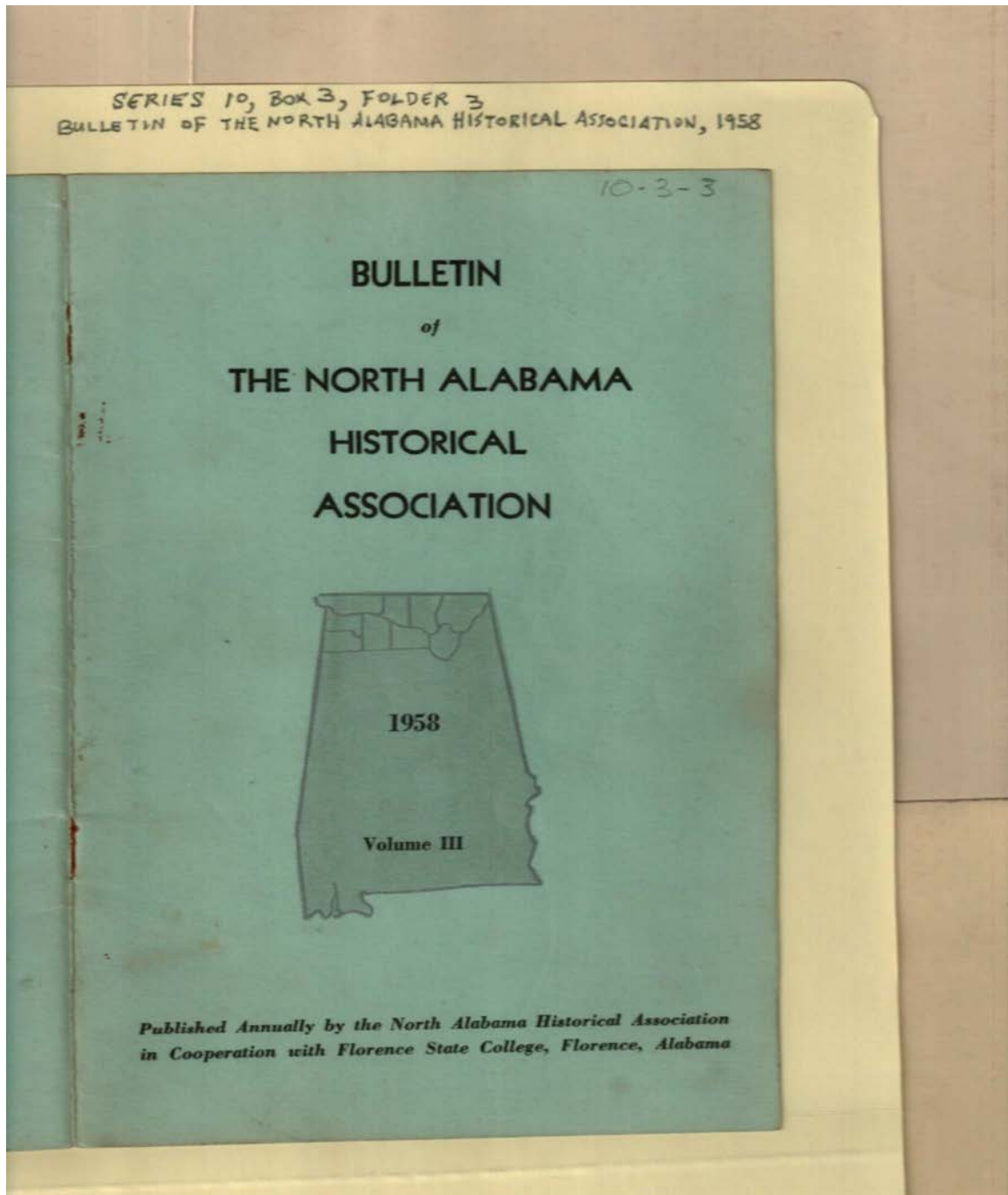


Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 3, Folder 3

"North Alabama Historical Association" Bulletin, 1958

Image 1 r10_03-03-000-0001 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

North Alabama
Historical

Association

Places:

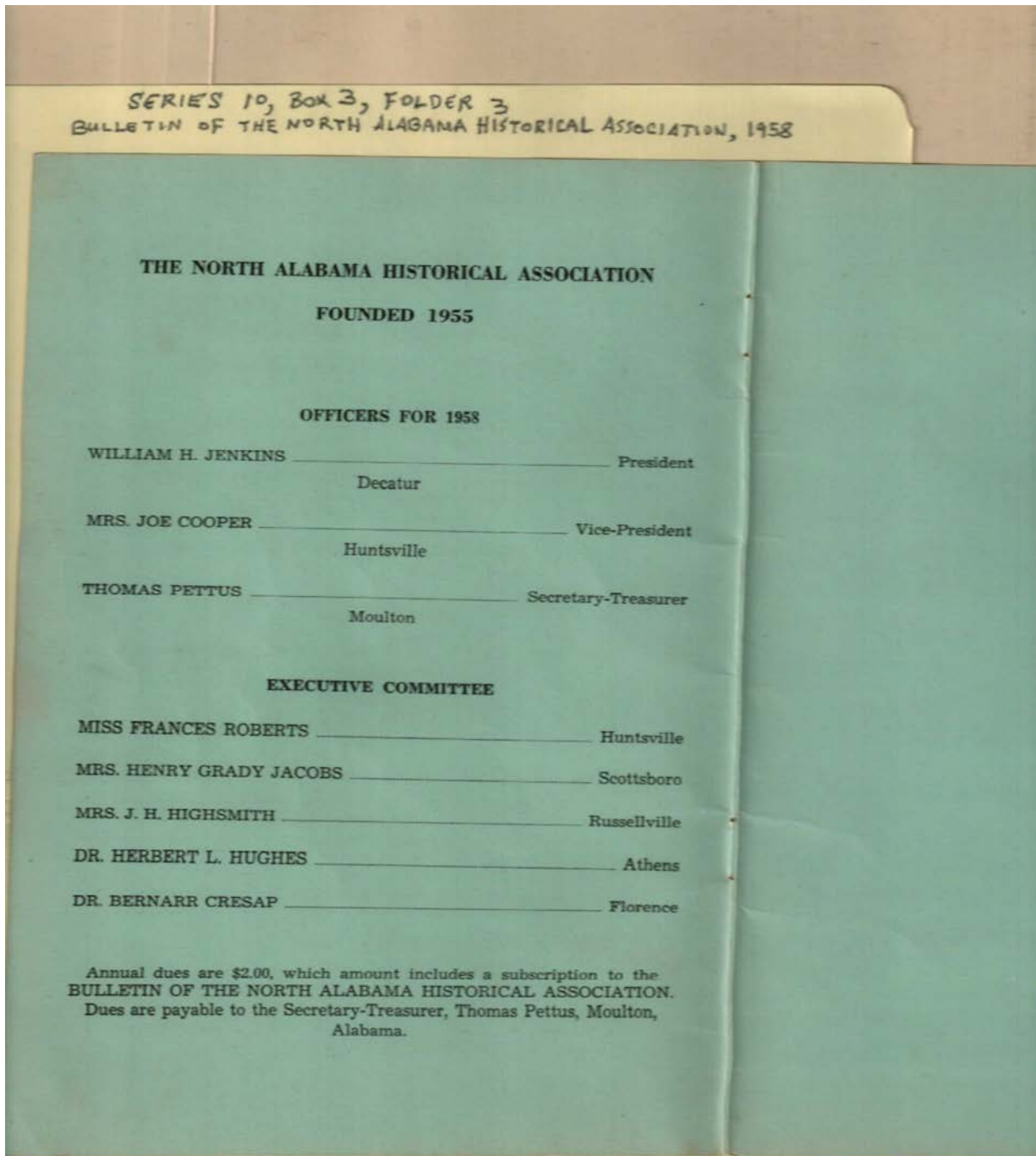
Florence, AL

Types:

bulletin

Dates:

1958



Names:

Cooper, Joe, Mrs.
Cresap, Bernarr, Dr.

Highsmith, J. H.,
Mrs.
Hugh, Herbert L., Dr.

Jacobs, Henry Grady,
Mrs.
Jenkins, William H.

Pettus, Thomas
Roberts, Frances,
Miss

Types:

bulletin

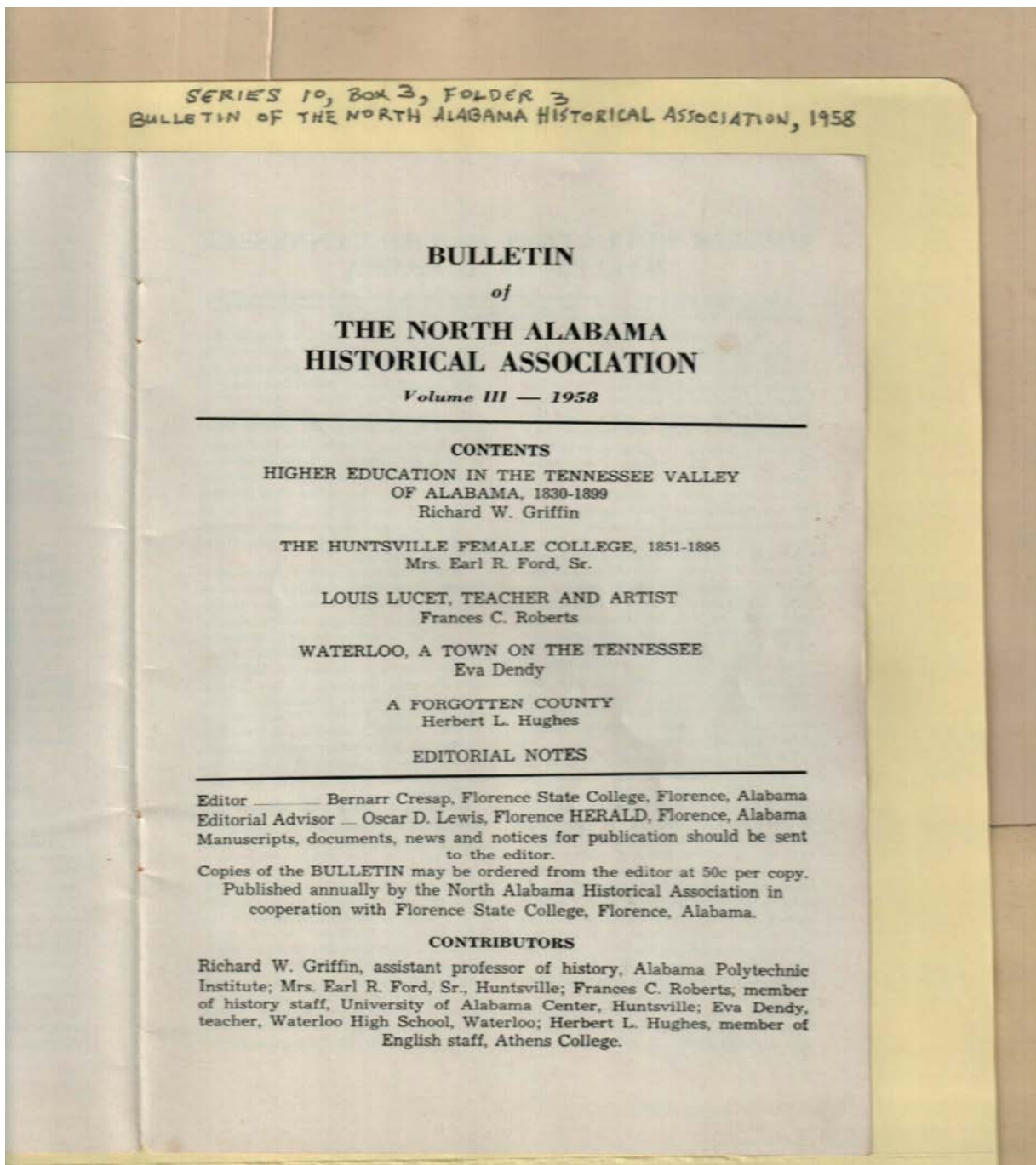
Dates:

1958

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 3, Folder 3

"North Alabama Historical Association" Bulletin, 1958

Image 3 r10_03-03-000-0003 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Cresap, Bernarr

Dendy, Eva

Ford, Earl R., Sr.,

Mrs.

Griffin, Richard W.

Hughes, Herbert L.

Lewis, Oscar D.

Roberts, Frances C.

Types:

bulletin

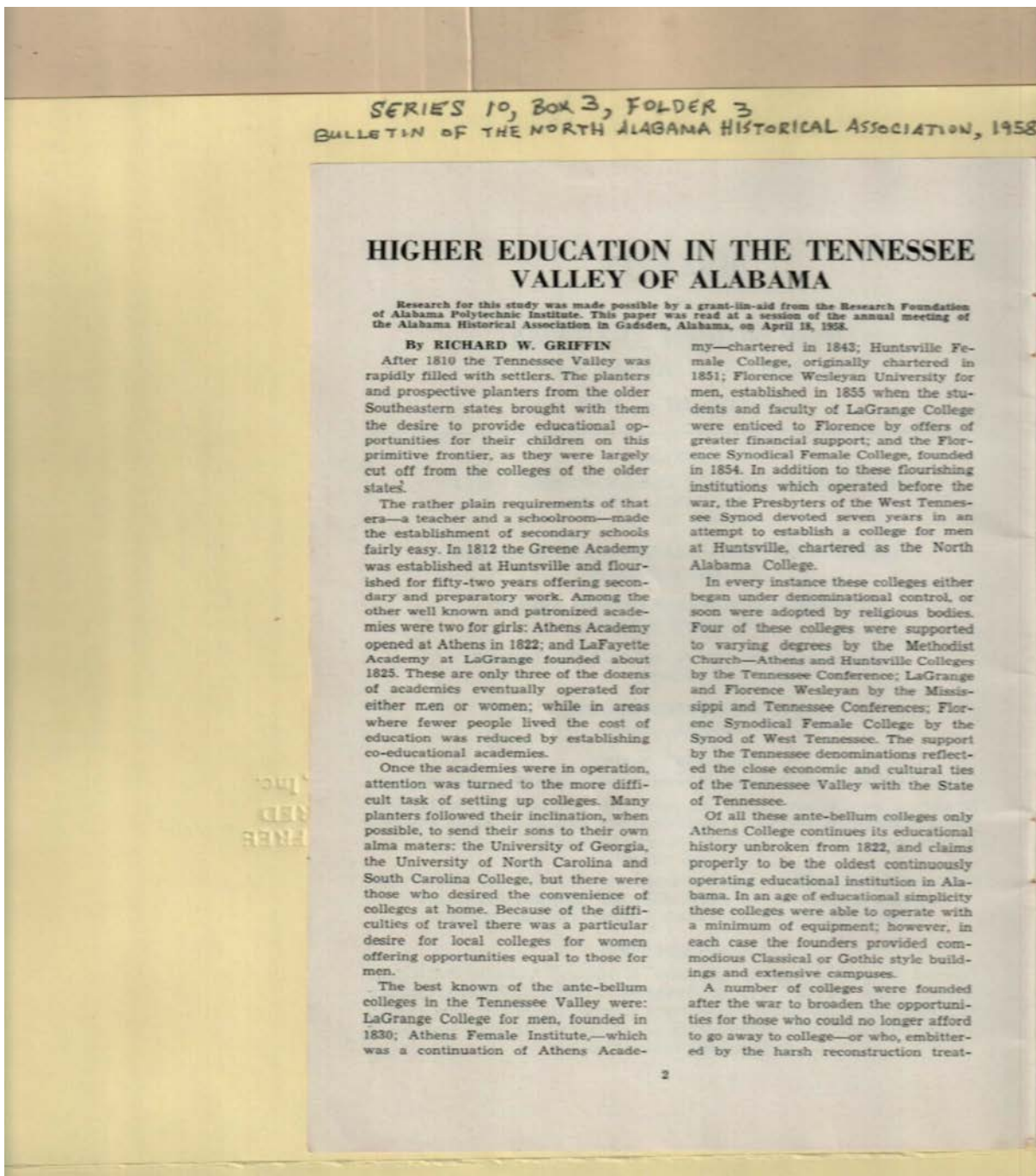
Dates:

1958

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 3, Folder 3

"North Alabama Historical Association" Bulletin, 1958

Image 4 r10_03-03-000-0004 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Griffin, Richard W.

Higher Education in
the Tennessee

Valley

Places:

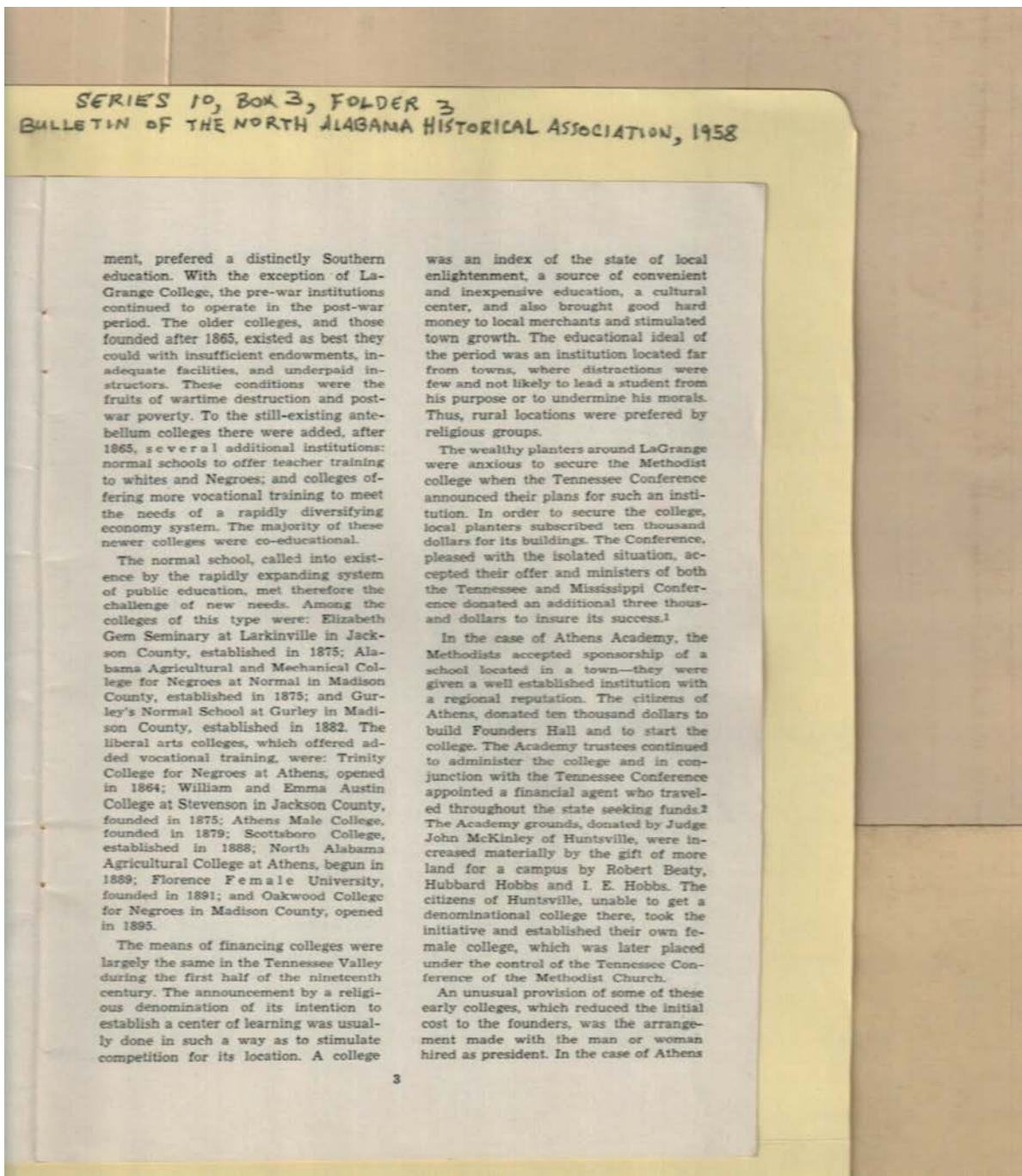
Gadsden, AL

Types:

speech

Dates:

Apr 18, 1958



Names:

Austin, Emma
Austin, William

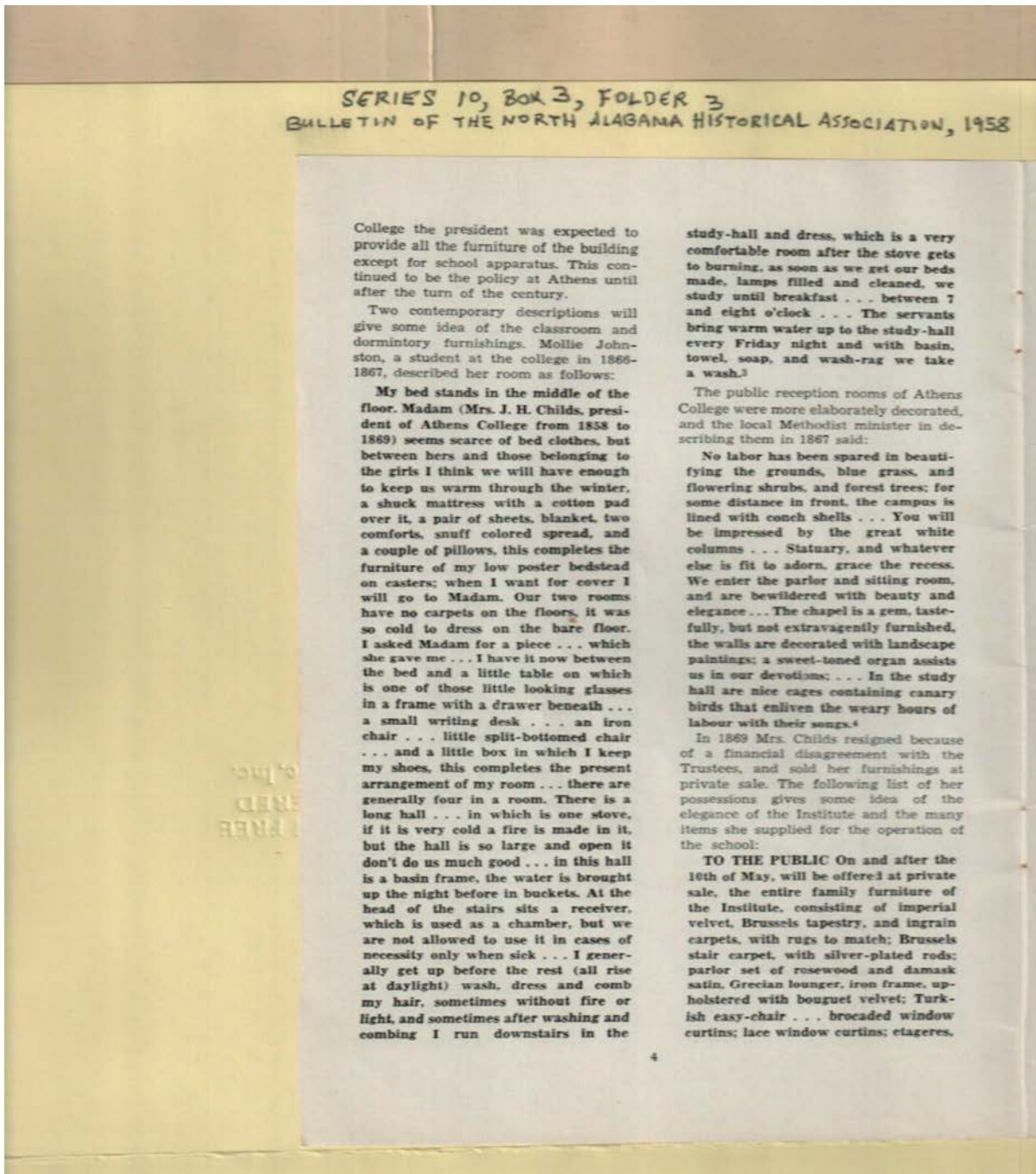
Beaty, Robert
Gem, Elizabeth

Hobbs, Hubbard
Hobbs, I. E.

McKinley, John,
Judge

Types:

speech



Names:

Childs, J. H., Mrs.

Types:

speech

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filled with rare shells; large French plate mirror, highly ornamented, present New York price \$300; cane seat, mahogany and other chairs; large Gothic table; rosewood chamber sets, marble tops, and complete china sets to match.

ORNAMENTS Mantel ornaments; rare vases; imitation ivory pictures, and engravings — "Faith," "Noah's First Sacrifice," "Ruth and Boaz," are among them — besides some fine subjects for the sitting-room. In Statuary there is a full sized "Diana," a "Clio," and a large "Newfoundland Dog," all in terra-cotta; in iron, a dish-scrappers; stoves and wrought dish-scrappers; stoves and wrought range; solid walnut extension table, set of leaf dining tables; full dinner service in green and gold French china; breakfast and tea services in blue and gold; full tea service in silver plate; pearl-handled cutlery, silver blades; solid silver forks and spoons; Bohemian wine bottles; cut glass, canary birds and cages; 200 conch shells; bed-steads in maple, walnut, and cherry, curled hair and shuck mattresses; bedding of every quality; very superior Saxony blankets, and nice Marseille quilts.⁵

Another means of ante-bellum finance involved the sale of perpetual and limited scholarships by colleges for a fixed price. The purchase of such a scholarship enabled the buyer to send anyone to a college free of further charge. The cost of the scholarships limited to twenty years was usually about three hundred dollars. Although under pressure for money, colleges often reduced even this small sum drastically. Some of these sold for as low as eighty dollars, therefore, a purchaser might send students to college for the low cost of five dollars a year. It was possible for the purchaser of a scholarship to recover the cost and to realize a profit over the original purchase price. As an example at one college in 1856 when the tuition was \$110 per year, the president wrote

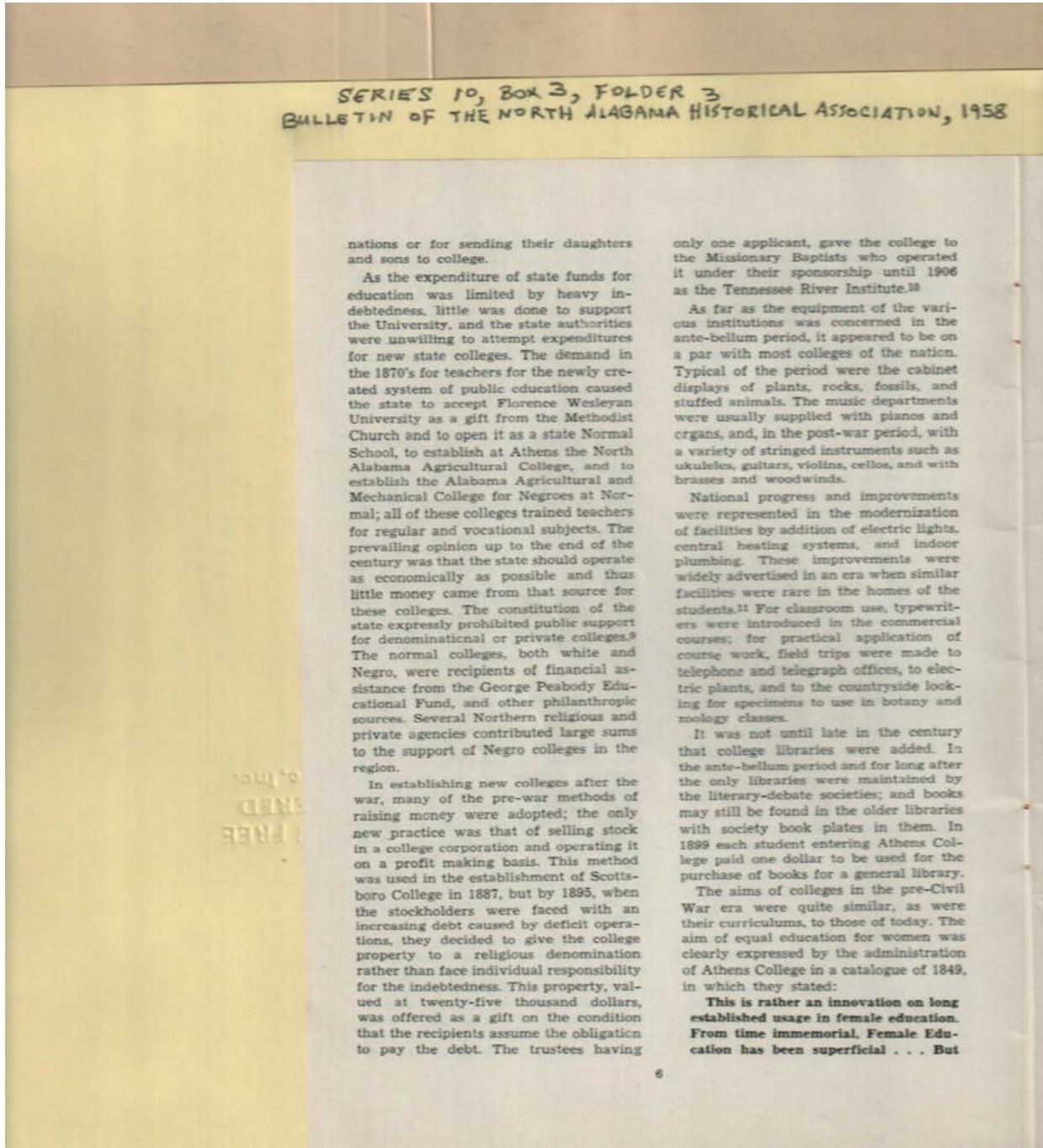
a prospective student's parent that "a scholarship can be leased at \$7½ a session of 5 months, or \$15, a year. There will be no difficulty in procuring the benefit of a scholarship—as there are many persons who keep them here for lease."⁶ As late as the 1930's a student at Athens College was educated on a free scholarship sold in the 1890's to secure funds to build Vaughn Chapel—now the administrative wing of Athens College.

The Presbyters of West Tennessee synod, in trying to establish North Alabama College at Huntsville, raised an endowment of sixty thousand dollars by 1858 through gifts and especially through the sale of twenty year scholarships. North Alabama College, probably because of the panic of 1857 and the troubled times immediately prior to the Civil War, was never opened; and yet of all the colleges in the Tennessee Valley it had the best financial prospects. In 1858 a total of ninety thousand dollars had been raised—thirty thousand of which was for buildings.⁷

One other means of financial assistance was suggested but was abandoned because of public protest. The city government of Huntsville, which had pledged a large sum of money to secure railway service, considered giving North Alabama College and Bascom Female Institute the sum of five thousand dollars each. The support for the protest against this suggestion took on political coloring. The *Southern Advocate*, a Whig paper, favored the idea through its editorial discussions, while the *Democrat* took a distinctly unfavorable view of spending public money for private colleges.⁸

The financial condition of most colleges after the war was desperate, as their endowments were lost through the repudiation of Confederate bonds. The confusion and poverty caused by Radical Reconstruction prevented for a dozen years any real financial recovery. Private citizens had little money for do-

Types:
speech



Types:
speech

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why, it may be asked, should woman's education differ materially from man's? . . . We take it for granted, therefore that the Education of both sexes, should be based upon the same model, in its general outlines. Hence we have framed a course of study in the solid branches, which, for thoroughness, has seldom been equalled by any female institution in this or any other country.

The aim of Athens College, according to its officers, was to develop the student mentally and to teach her the practical application of knowledge.

They maintained that a few principles accurately learned were more valuable than thousands of transitory ideas. To attain a hard nucleus around which ideas may be built and the mind be broadened, they claimed to use "every effort to induce in their pupils, habits of close, accurate, original thought—habits of rigid analysis—of thorough investigation." Visual education was a strong part of the curriculum whereby textbooks and lectures, were supplemented by "using maps, globes, diagrams, black-board-illustrations and experiments." Special importance was given to teaching sound grammar and arithmetic. "We devote great attention to composition. Weekly compositions are required of every pupil in the collegiate department; frequent Latin and French compositions from pupils studying these languages." The teachers corrected all the papers as to penmanship, spelling, style, and punctuation, and then returned them to the students to be rewritten and copied into a notebook for that purpose.

In general, the Institute's rules were simple and strictly maintained, and designed to obviate unnecessary noise and to teach the girls department. The stu-



WESLEYAN HALL—FLORENCE

dents were given moral instruction in frequent prayer and Biblical lessons, and were required to attend church and Sunday school at one of the local churches. The Bible was also used as part of the curriculum, as a means of instructing religious principles as well as an introduction to "correct and elegant reading." Despite the attention to religious matters the college was entirely nonsectarian, and the president claimed that "no influence is used, either directly or indirectly, to induce any pupil to join our church."¹²

These aims and statements can be taken as more or less standard for the women's colleges of the area. As for the course of study offered at these institutions they compare favorably in breadth to current curriculums; as to depth, the courses lacked the narrow specialization of today.

Athens Academy in 1831 offered its students spelling, reading, writing, defining, arithmetic, English grammar, and geography in its juvenile department; reading, writing, defining, arithmetic, English grammar, modern geography, the use of globes, geometry, algebra, rhetoric, history of the United States, composition, and needle work for the junior class; the senior class, in addition to a continuation of the foregoing courses, studied natural philosophy,

Names:

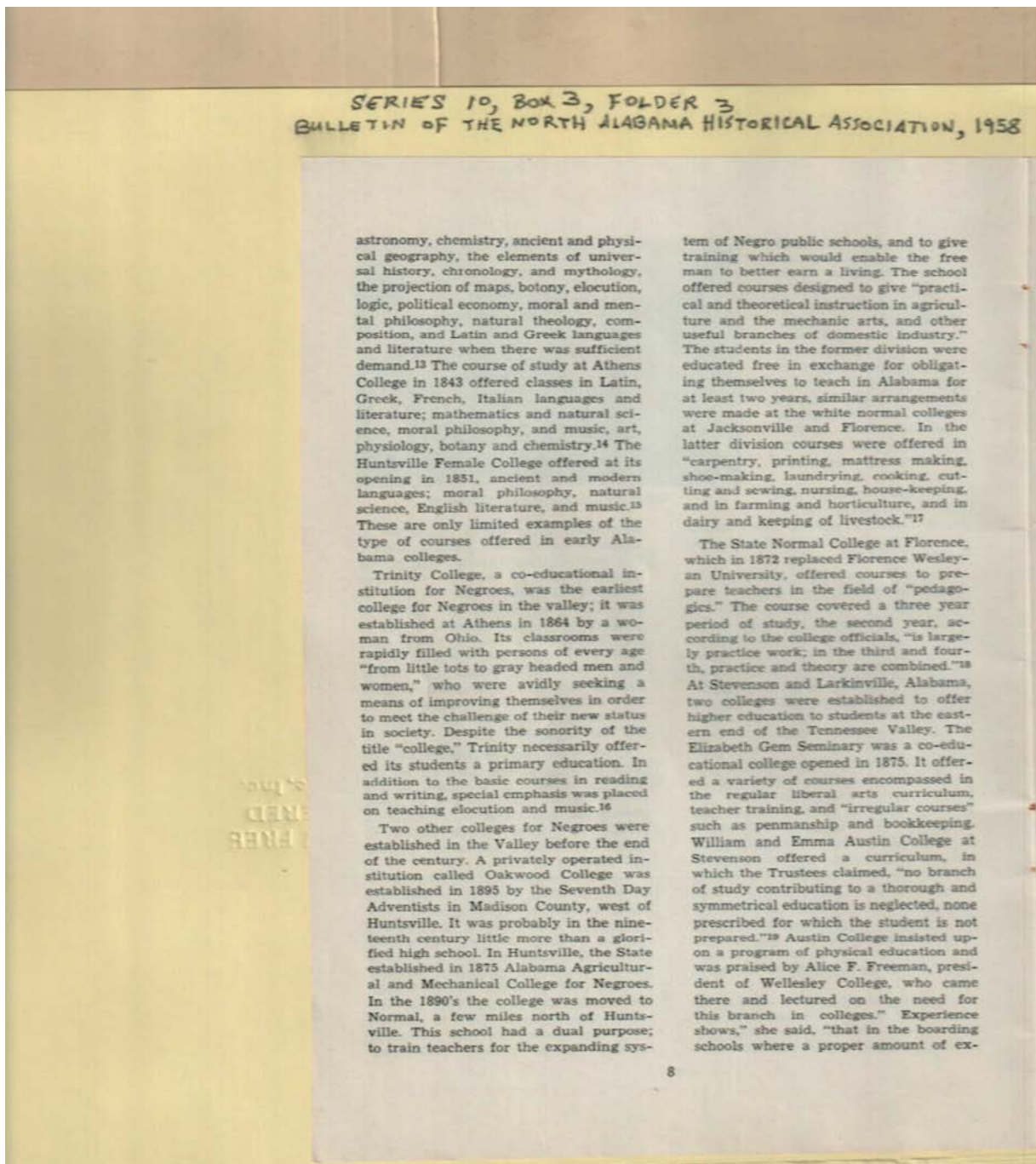
Wesleyan Hall

Places:

Florence, AL

Types:

photograph



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astronomy, chemistry, ancient and physical geography, the elements of universal history, chronology, and mythology, the projection of maps, botany, elocution, logic, political economy, moral and mental philosophy, natural theology, composition, and Latin and Greek languages and literature when there was sufficient demand.¹³ The course of study at Athens College in 1843 offered classes in Latin, Greek, French, Italian languages and literature; mathematics and natural science, moral philosophy, and music, art, physiology, botany and chemistry.¹⁴ The Huntsville Female College offered at its opening in 1851, ancient and modern languages; moral philosophy, natural science, English literature, and music.¹⁵ These are only limited examples of the type of courses offered in early Alabama colleges.

Trinity College, a co-educational institution for Negroes, was the earliest college for Negroes in the valley; it was established at Athens in 1864 by a woman from Ohio. Its classrooms were rapidly filled with persons of every age "from little tots to gray headed men and women," who were avidly seeking a means of improving themselves in order to meet the challenge of their new status in society. Despite the sonority of the title "college," Trinity necessarily offered its students a primary education. In addition to the basic courses in reading and writing, special emphasis was placed on teaching elocution and music.¹⁶

Two other colleges for Negroes were established in the Valley before the end of the century. A privately operated institution called Oakwood College was established in 1895 by the Seventh Day Adventists in Madison County, west of Huntsville. It was probably in the nineteenth century little more than a glorified high school. In Huntsville, the State established in 1875 Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes. In the 1890's the college was moved to Normal, a few miles north of Huntsville. This school had a dual purpose; to train teachers for the expanding sys-

tem of Negro public schools, and to give training which would enable the free man to better earn a living. The school offered courses designed to give "practical and theoretical instruction in agriculture and the mechanic arts, and other useful branches of domestic industry." The students in the former division were educated free in exchange for obligating themselves to teach in Alabama for at least two years, similar arrangements were made at the white normal colleges at Jacksonville and Florence. In the latter division courses were offered in "carpentry, printing, mattress making, shoe-making, laundrying, cooking, cutting and sewing, nursing, house-keeping, and in farming and horticulture, and in dairy and keeping of livestock."¹⁷

The State Normal College at Florence, which in 1872 replaced Florence Wesleyan University, offered courses to prepare teachers in the field of "pedagogy." The course covered a three year period of study, the second year, according to the college officials, "is largely practice work; in the third and fourth, practice and theory are combined."¹⁸ At Stevenson and Larkinsville, Alabama, two colleges were established to offer higher education to students at the eastern end of the Tennessee Valley. The Elizabeth Gem Seminary was a co-educational college opened in 1875. It offered a variety of courses encompassed in the regular liberal arts curriculum, teacher training, and "irregular courses" such as penmanship and bookkeeping. William and Emma Austin College at Stevenson offered a curriculum, in which the Trustees claimed, "no branch of study contributing to a thorough and symmetrical education is neglected, none prescribed for which the student is not prepared."¹⁹ Austin College insisted upon a program of physical education and was praised by Alice F. Freeman, president of Wellesley College, who came there and lectured on the need for this branch in colleges. "Experience shows," she said, "that in the boarding schools where a proper amount of ex-

Names:

Austin, Emma

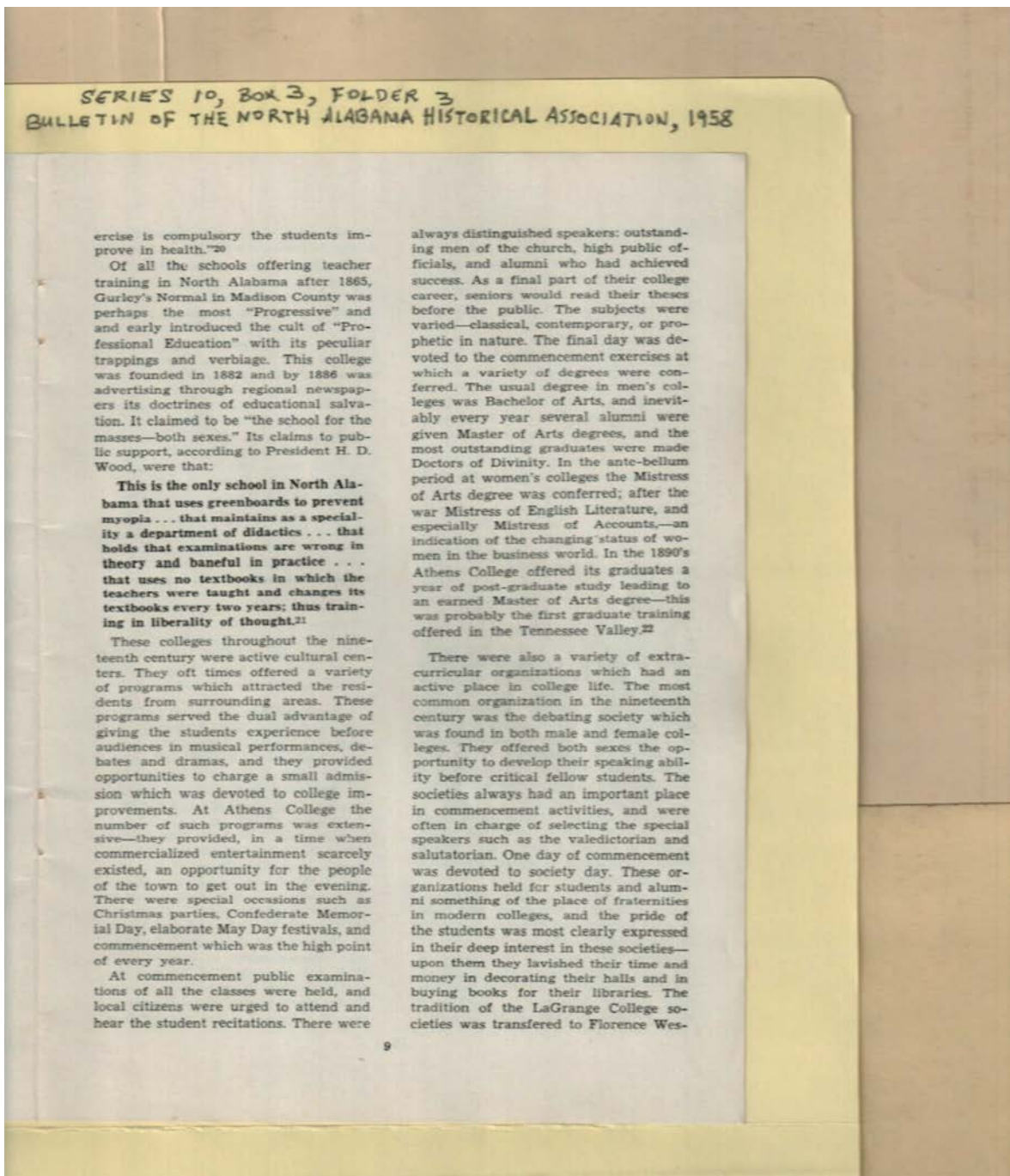
Austin, William

Freeman, Alice F.

Gem, Elizabeth

Types:

speech



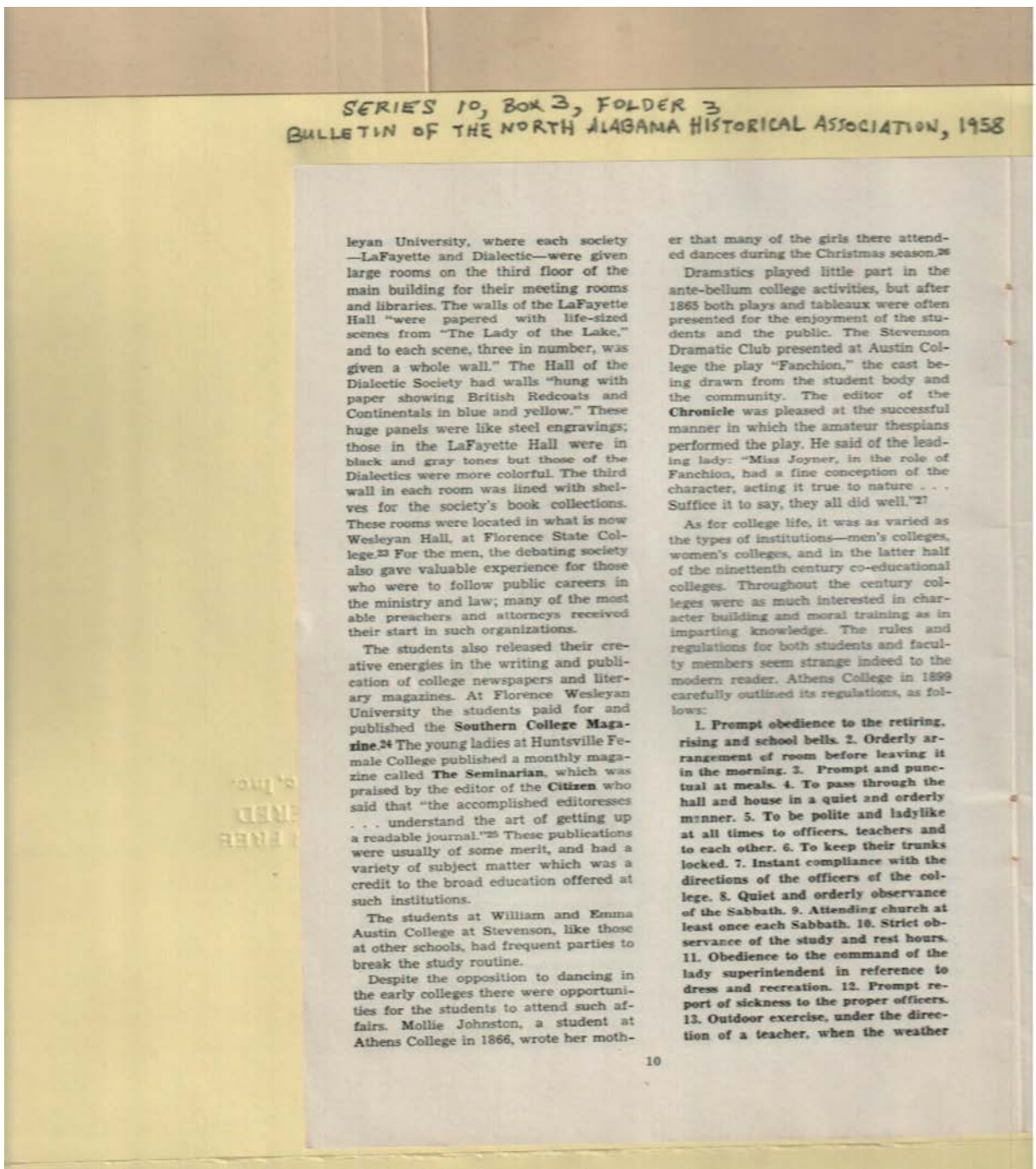
Names:

Gurley,

Wood, H. D.

Types:

speech



Names:

Austin, Emma

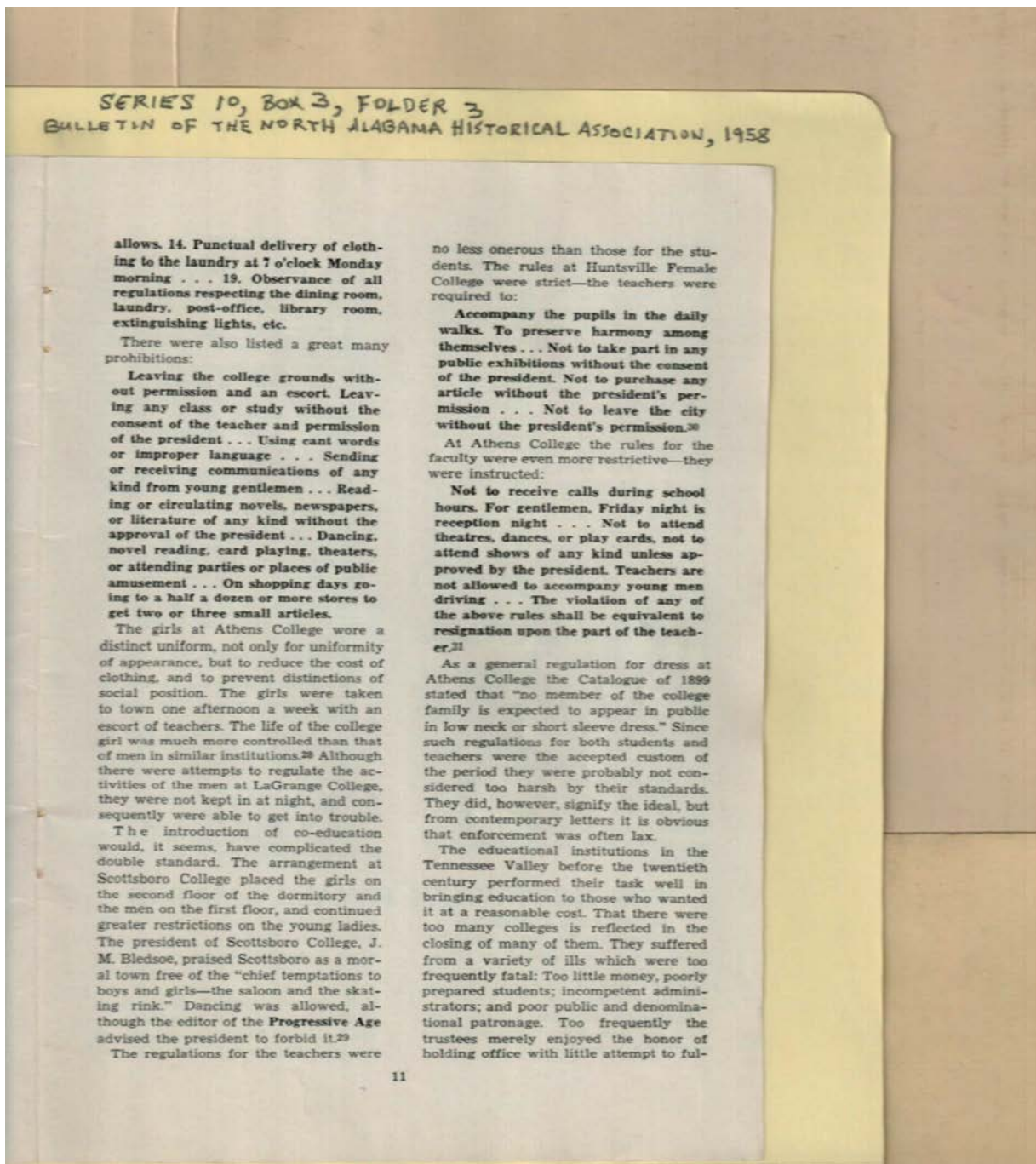
Austin, William

Johnston, Mollie

Joyner, Miss

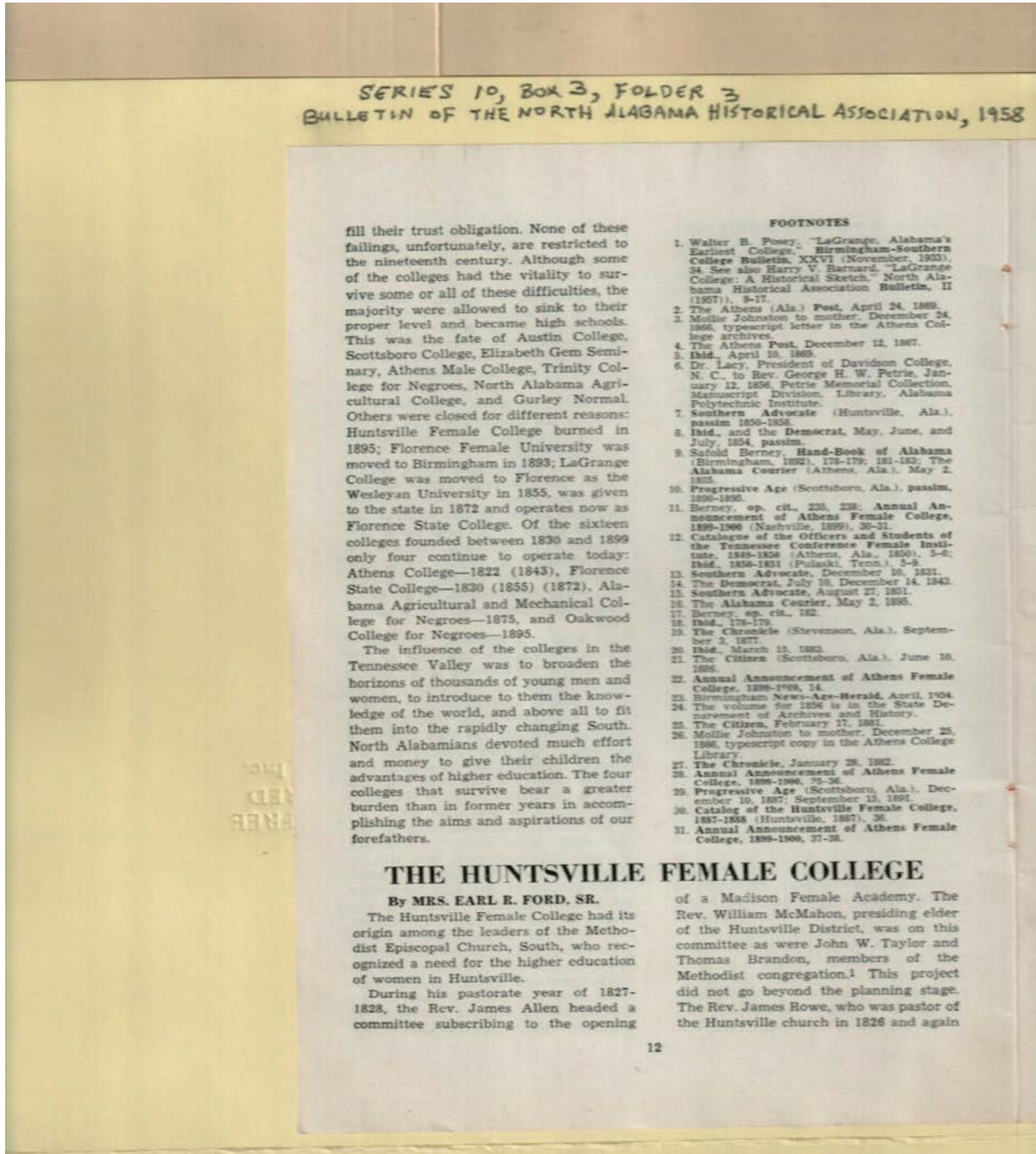
Types:

speech



Names:
Bledsoe, J. M.

Types:
speech



fill their trust obligation. None of these failings, unfortunately, are restricted to the nineteenth century. Although some of the colleges had the vitality to survive some or all of these difficulties, the majority were allowed to sink to their proper level and became high schools. This was the fate of Austin College, Scottsboro College, Elizabeth Gem Seminary, Athens Male College, Trinity College for Negroes, North Alabama Agricultural College, and Gurley Normal. Others were closed for different reasons: Huntsville Female College burned in 1895; Florence Female University was moved to Birmingham in 1893; LaGrange College was moved to Florence as the Wesleyan University in 1855, was given to the state in 1872 and operates now as Florence State College. Of the sixteen colleges founded between 1830 and 1899 only four continue to operate today: Athens College—1822 (1843), Florence State College—1830 (1855) (1872), Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes—1875, and Oakwood College for Negroes—1895.

The influence of the colleges in the Tennessee Valley was to broaden the horizons of thousands of young men and women, to introduce to them the knowledge of the world, and above all to fit them into the rapidly changing South. North Alabamians devoted much effort and money to give their children the advantages of higher education. The four colleges that survive bear a greater burden than in former years in accomplishing the aims and aspirations of our forefathers.

THE HUNTSVILLE FEMALE COLLEGE

By MRS. EARL R. FORD, SR.

The Huntsville Female College had its origin among the leaders of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, who recognized a need for the higher education of women in Huntsville.

During his pastorate year of 1827-1828, the Rev. James Allen headed a committee subscribing to the opening

FOOTNOTES

1. Walter B. Posey, "LaGrange, Alabama's Earliest College," Birmingham-Southern College Bulletin, XXVI (November, 1933), 24. See also Harry V. Barnard, "LaGrange College: A Historical Sketch," North Alabama Historical Association Bulletin, II (1937), 9-17.
2. The Athens (Ala.) Post, April 24, 1869.
3. Mollie Johnston to mother, December 24, 1866, typescript letter in the Athens College archives.
4. The Athens Post, December 11, 1867.
5. *Ibid.*, April 19, 1869.
6. Dr. Lacy, President of Davidson College, N. C., to Rev. George H. W. Petrie, January 12, 1856, Petrie Memorial Collection, Manuscript Division, Library, Alabama Polytechnic Institute.
7. Southern Advocate (Huntsville, Ala.), passim 1856-1858.
8. *Ibid.*, and the Democrat, May, June, and July, 1854, passim.
9. Safold Berney, *Hand-Book of Alabama* (Birmingham, 1892), 178-179; 181-182; The Alabama Courier (Athens, Ala.), May 2, 1855.
10. Progressive Age (Scottsboro, Ala.), passim, 1899-1895.
11. Berney, op. cit., 235, 238; Annual Announcement of Athens Female College, 1899-1900 (Nashville, 1899), 30-31.
12. Catalogue of the Officers and Students of the Tennessee Conference Female Institute, 1849-1850 (Athens, Ala., 1850), 3-6; *Ibid.*, 1858-1861 (Pulaski, Tenn.), 3-9.
13. Southern Advocate, December 10, 1831.
14. The Democrat, July 19, December 14, 1843.
15. Southern Advocate, August 27, 1861.
16. The Alabama Courier, May 2, 1856.
17. Berney, op. cit., 182.
18. *Ibid.*, 178-179.
19. The Chronicle (Stevenson, Ala.), September 2, 1877.
20. *Ibid.*, March 15, 1882.
21. The Citizen (Scottsboro, Ala.), June 10, 1896.
22. Annual Announcement of Athens Female College, 1898-1899, 14.
23. Birmingham News-Age-Herald, April, 1904.
24. The volume for 1856 is in the State Department of Archives and History.
25. The Citizen, February 17, 1881.
26. Mollie Johnston to mother, December 25, 1866, typescript copy in the Athens College library.
27. The Chronicle, January 28, 1882.
28. Annual Announcement of Athens Female College, 1899-1900, 29-36.
29. Progressive Age (Scottsboro, Ala.), December 10, 1897; September 13, 1895.
30. Catalog of the Huntsville Female College, 1887-1888 (Huntsville, 1887), 36.
31. Annual Announcement of Athens Female College, 1899-1900, 27-28.

Names:

Allen, James, Rev.
Barnard, Harry V.
Berney, Safold
Brandon, Thomas

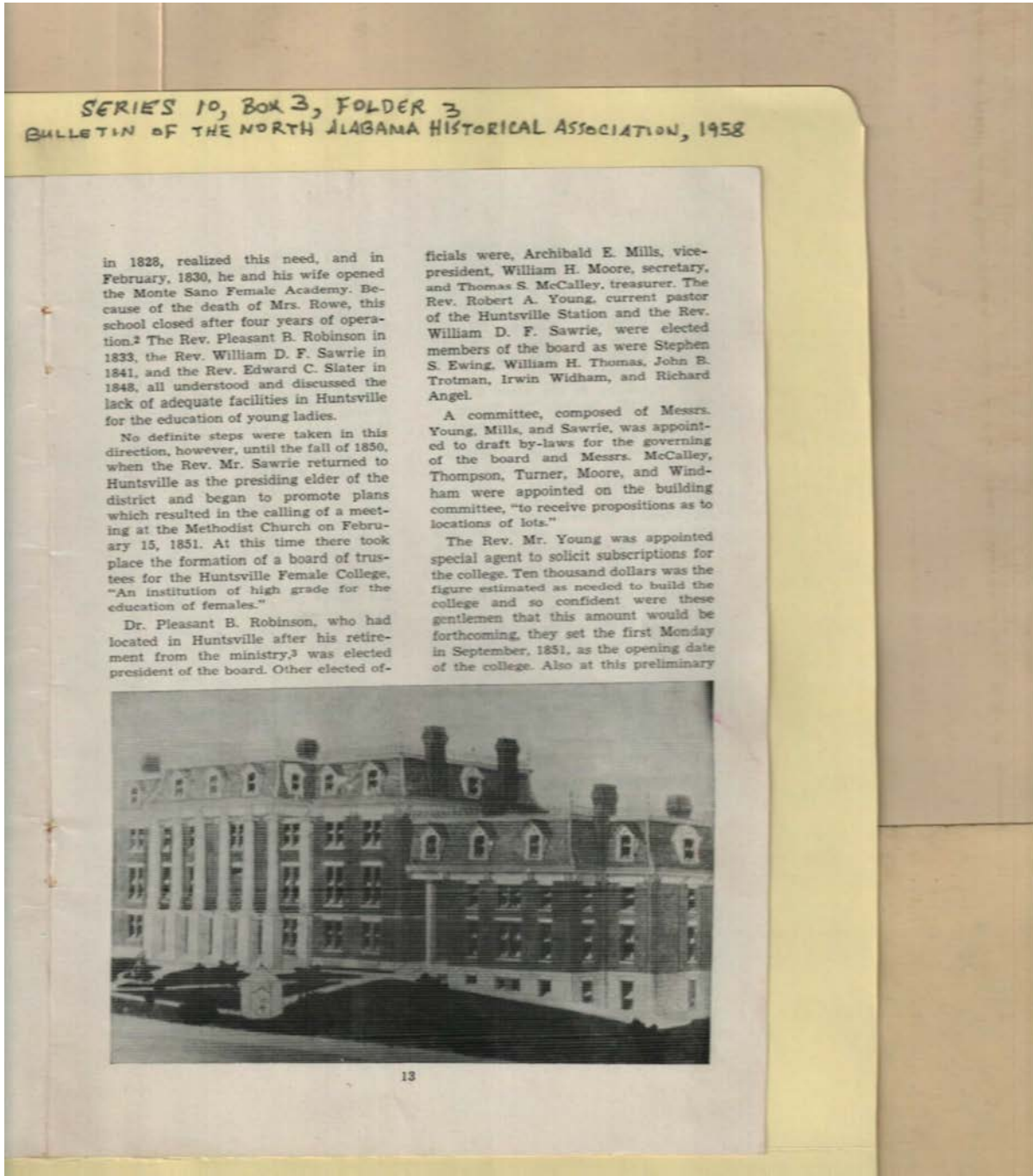
Ford, Earl R., Sr.,
Mrs.
Johnston, Mollie
Lacy, Dr.

McMahon, William,
Rev.
Petrie, George H. W.,
Rev.
Posey, Walter B.

Rowe, James, Rev.
Taylor, John W.
Huntsville Female
College

Types:

speech



Names:

Angel, Richard
Ewing, Stephen S.
Huntsville Female
College
McCalley, Thomas S.

Mills, Archibald E.
Moore, William H.
Robinson, Pleasant
B., Rev.
Rowe, Mrs.

Sawrie, William D.
F., Rev.
Slater, Edward C.,
Rev.
Thomas, William H.

Trotman, John B.
Widham, Irwin
Young, Robert A.,
Rev.

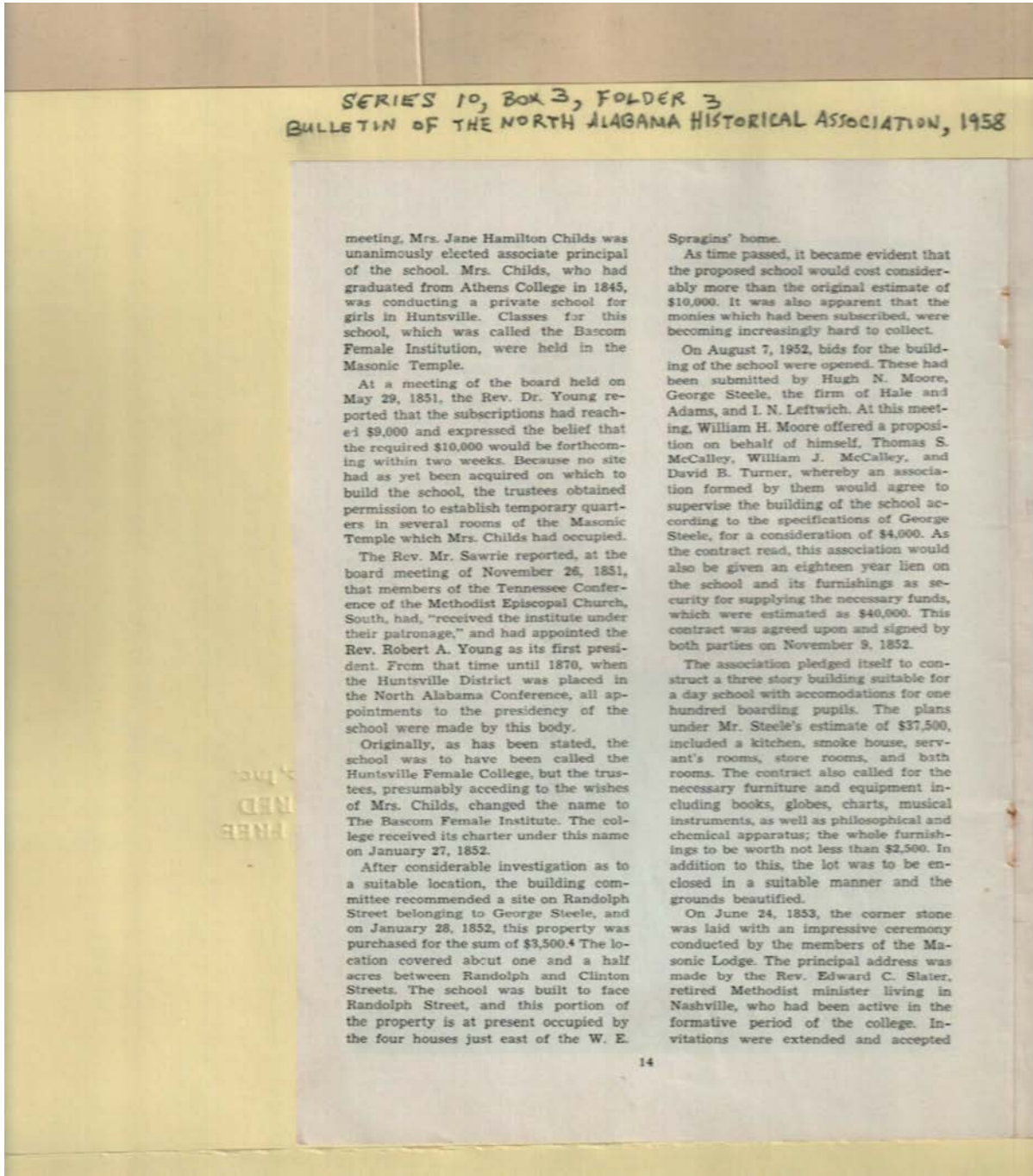
Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

photograph

speech



Names:

Adams,
Childs, Jane
Hamilton, Mrs.
Hale,

Leftwich, I. N.
McCalley, Thomas S.
McCalley, William J.
Moore, Hugh N.

Moore, William H.
Slater, Edward C.,
Rev.
Spragins, W. E.

Steele, George
Turner, David B.
Young, Robert A.,
Dr., Rev.

Types:

speech

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by the Mayor and Aldermen of Huntsville, the Lodge of Odd Fellows, the Sons of Temperance, the Engine Company, the Union Guard, the "various Sabbath and day schools," as well as the ministers of the town.

By the fall of 1854, the school was completed and classes were begun in the new building in February of 1855.

Various groups were encouraged to provide scholarships of \$300 for girls whom they might select. Among those offered this privilege were, the Tennessee Conference, the benevolent and charitable organizations of Huntsville, and the town of Huntsville. The city chose thirteen girls to attend the college under its patronage the first year, and for several years, record was made of three or four girls who attended on scholarships from the Tennessee Conference.

In the fall of 1855, both Mrs. Childs and the Rev. Dr. Young resigned and the Conference appointed the Rev. George M. Everhart president of the Bascom Female Institute. In December of that year, the name was changed and a charter granted under the name of The Huntsville Female College. This was done partly because there were a number of other Methodist schools named Bascom, but mainly because, "The Huntsville Female College," was the name under which the original subscriptions had been taken.

The school had an uninterrupted schedule from the first week in September through the first week in June, except for a one week vacation at Christmas time. The course of study included three divisions, the primary department, the academic department and the collegiate department.

The primary department was divided into two sections. The first section taught from Webster's **Spelling-book**; McGuffey's first and second readers; **First Steps in Geography** by Cornell; **Practical exercises in Map-Drawing**; **Mental Arithmetic**, by **Counting-Frame and Slate Exercises**; and **Writing on**



MISS MARIA HOSMER
Graduate of about 1889

Slates and Blackboards. The second section used the **Speller and Definer** by Townes; **The Third and Fourth McGuffey Readers**; **Cornell's Geography for Primaries**; **Progressive Primary Arithmetic** by Robinson; and **Penmanship** by Payson, Dunton and Scribner.

The academic department consisted of two years and the text books were the advanced version of those used by the primary department.

A five year course, freshman, sophomore, junior, sub-junior, and senior, was required for a **Diploma of Graduation** from the collegiate department, although a **Diploma of Attainment** was granted for shorter periods. The cur-

Names:

Childs, Mrs.
Cornell,
Dunton,

Everhart, George M.,
Rev.
Hosmer, Maria, Miss
McGuffey,

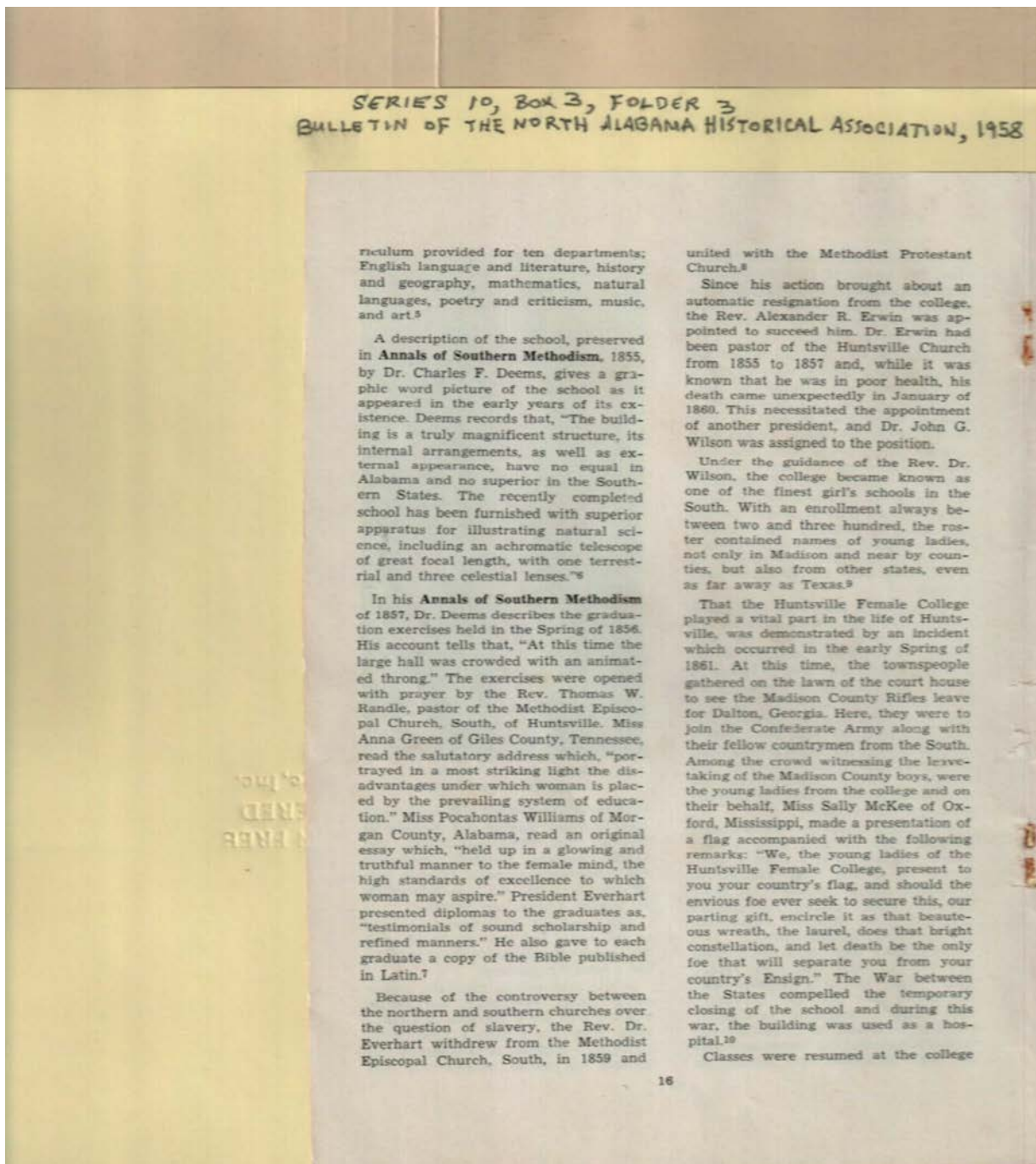
Payson,
Robinson,
Scribner,
Townes,

Webster,
Young, Rev., Dr.

Types:

photograph

speech



Names:

Deems, Charles F.,
Dr.
Erwin, Alexander R.,
Rev.

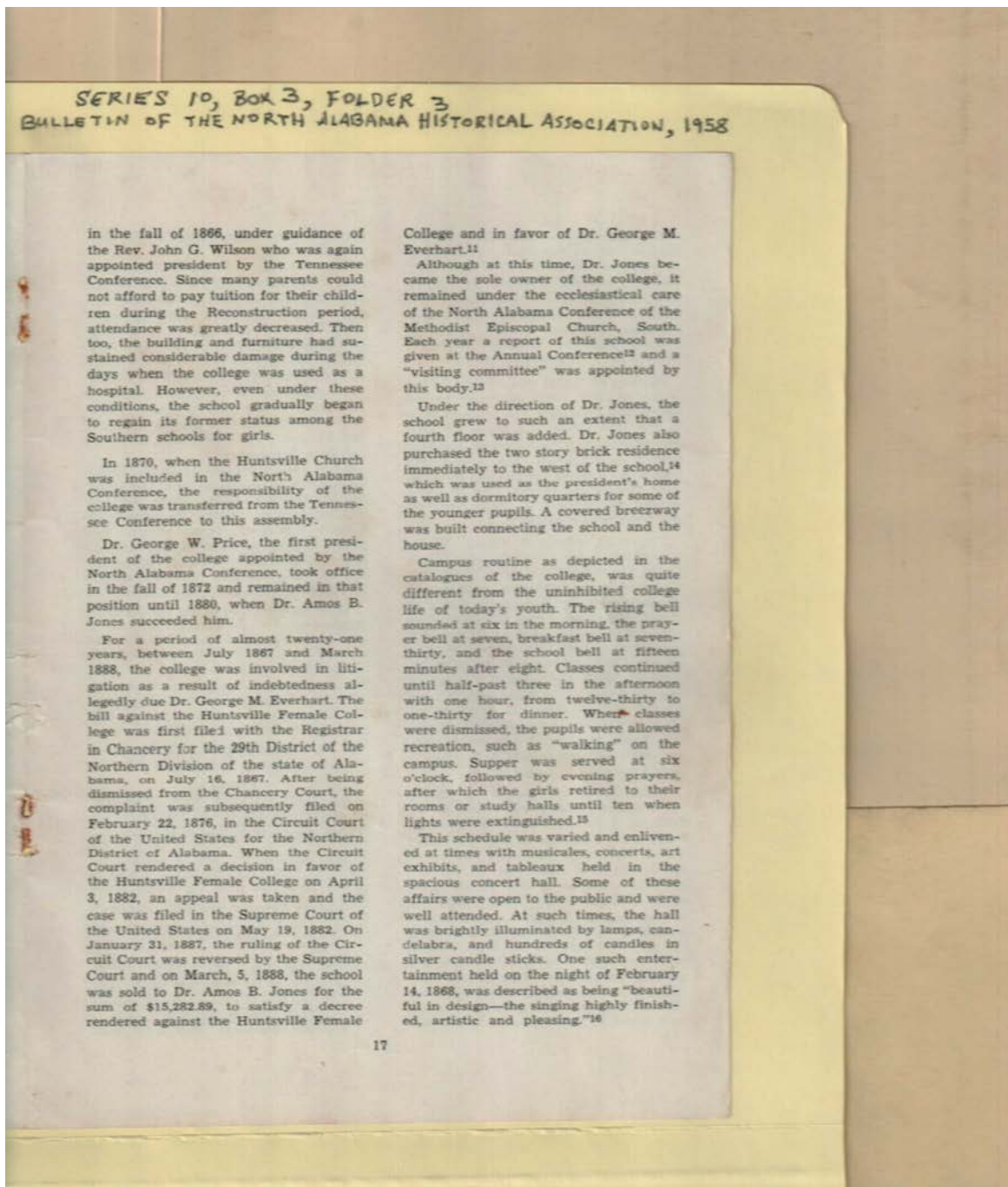
Everhart, President
Green, Anna, Miss
McKee, Sally, Miss

Randle, Thomas W.,
Rev.
Williams,
Pocahontas, Miss

Wilson, John G., Dr.

Types:

speech



Names:

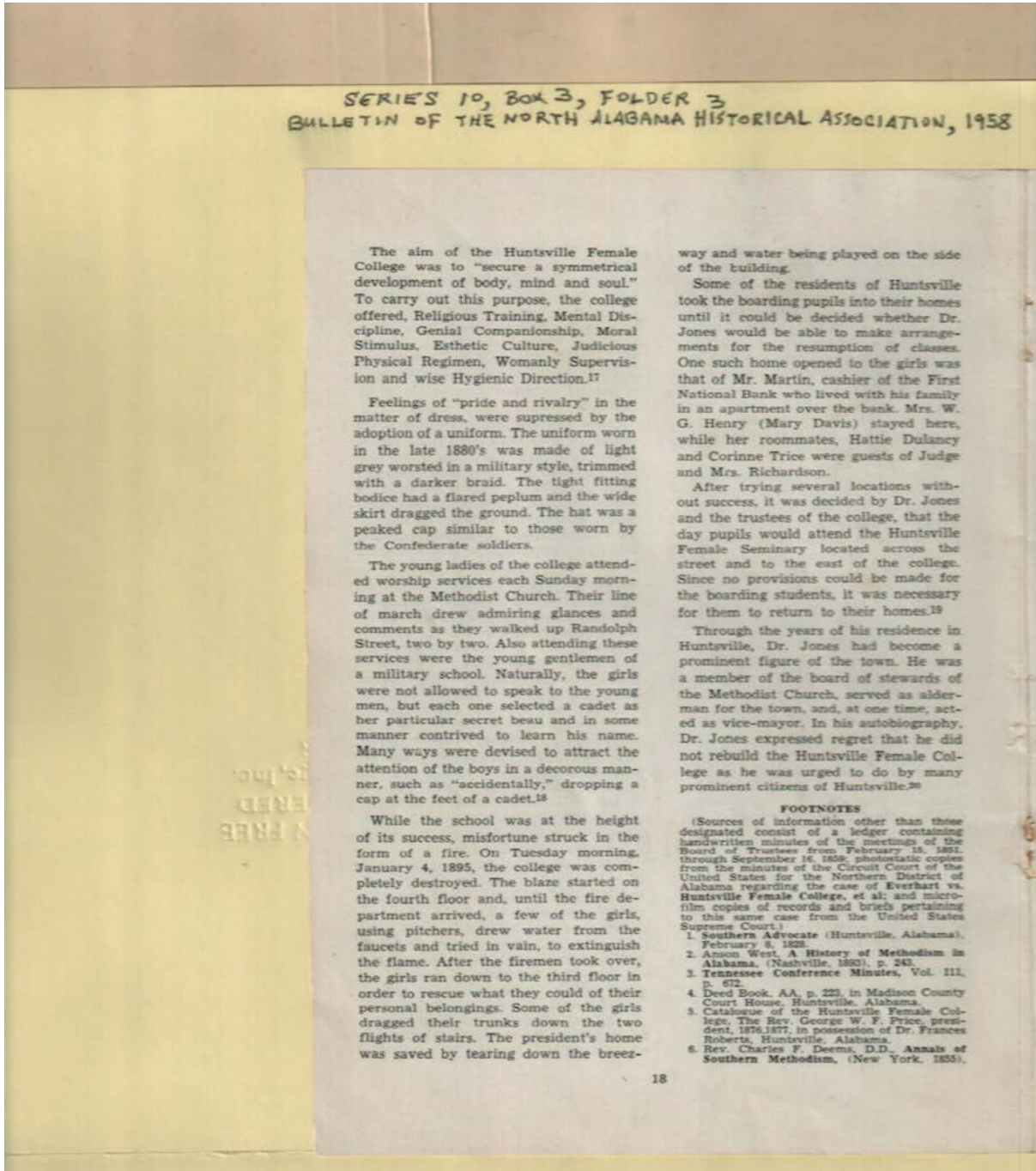
Everhart, George M.,
Rev.

Jones, Amos B., Dr.
Price, George W., Dr.

Wilson, John G., Dr.

Types:

speech



Names:

Davis, Mary
Deems, Charles F.,
Dr.
Dulancy, Hattie

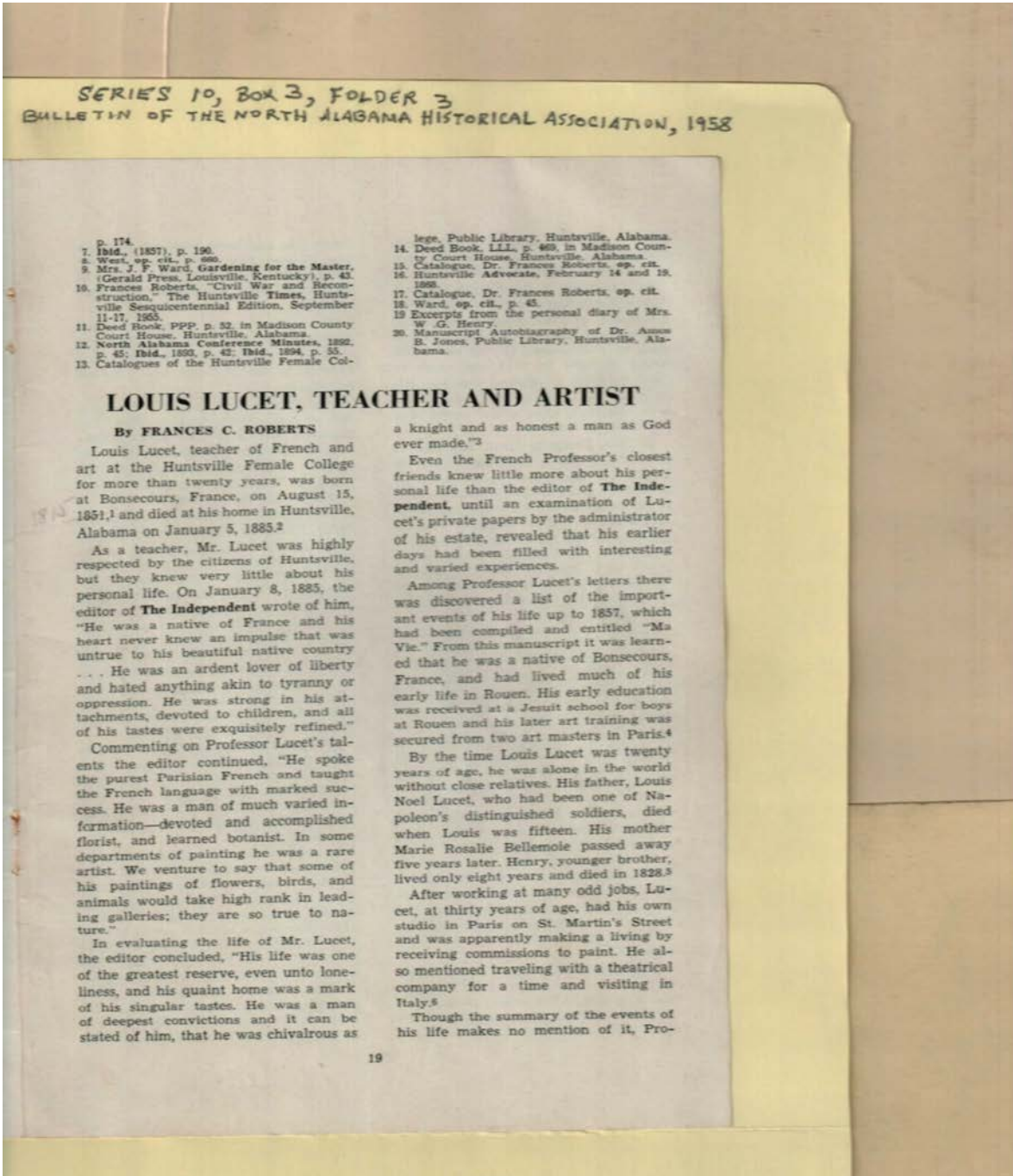
Henry, W. G., Mrs.
Jones, Dr.
Martin,

Price, George W. F.,
Rev.
Richardson, Judge &
Mrs.

Roberts, Frances, Dr.
Trice, Corinne
West, Anson

Types:

speech



Names:

, Napoleon
 Bellemoie, Marie
 Rosalie
 Henry, W. G., Mrs.

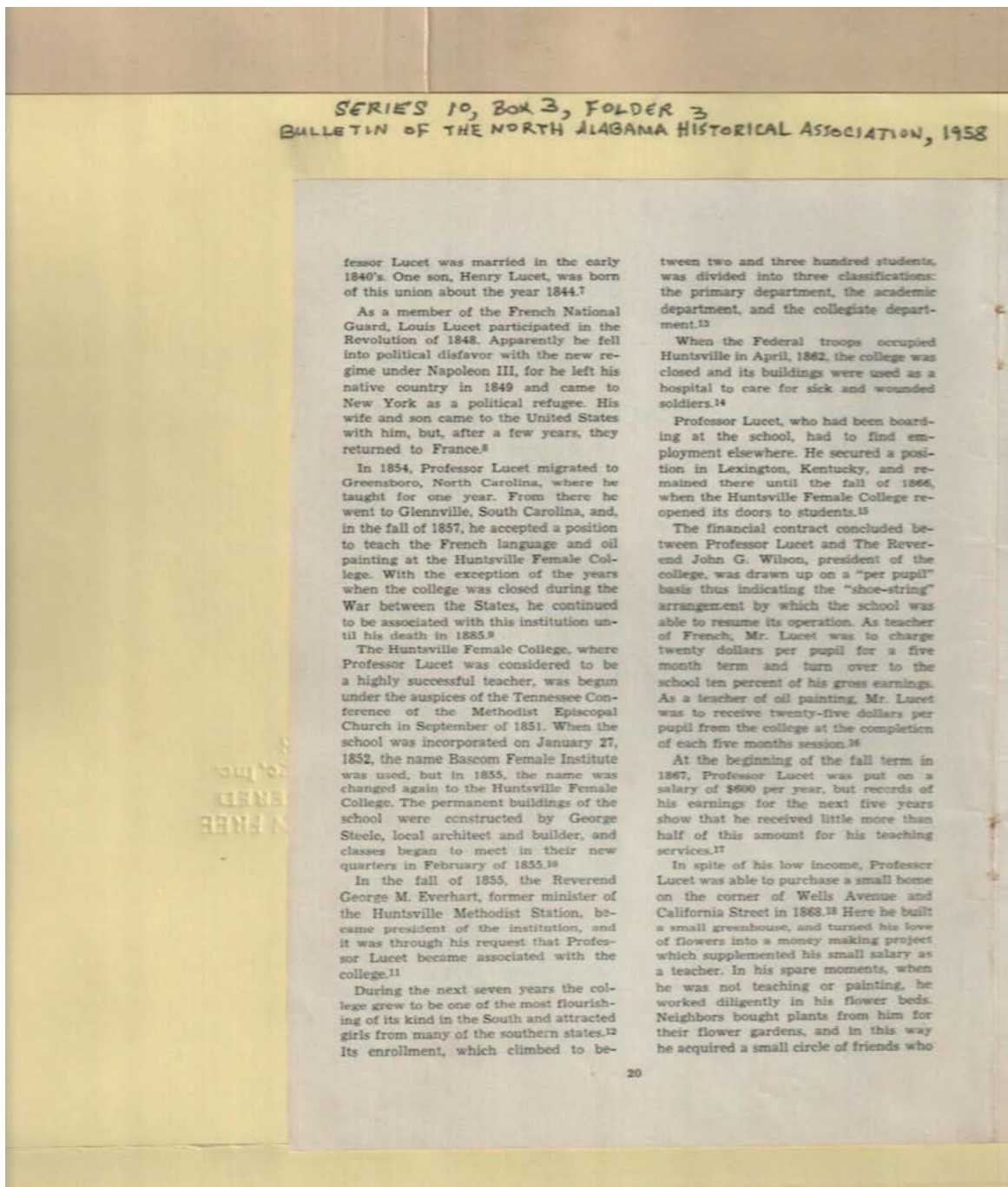
Jones, Amos B., Dr.
 Lucet, Henry
 Lucet, Louis
 Lucet, Louis Noel

Press, Gerald
 Roberts, Frances, Dr.
 Ward, J. F., Mrs.

Louis Lucet, Teacher
 & Artist

Types:

speech



Names:

, Napoleon, III

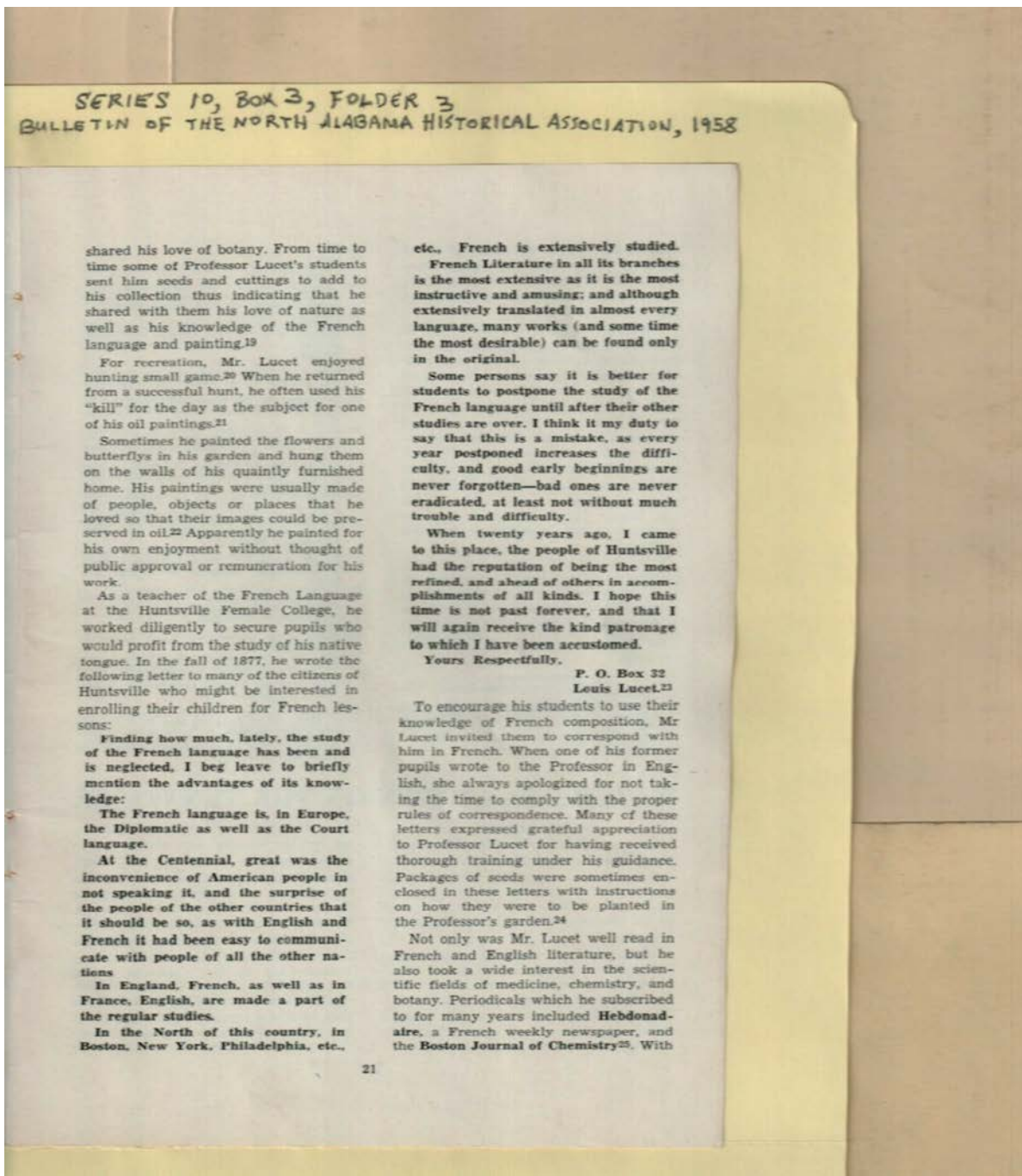
Everhart, George M.,
Rev.

Lucet, Henry
Lucet, Louis

Steele, George
Wilson, John G., Rev.

Types:

speech



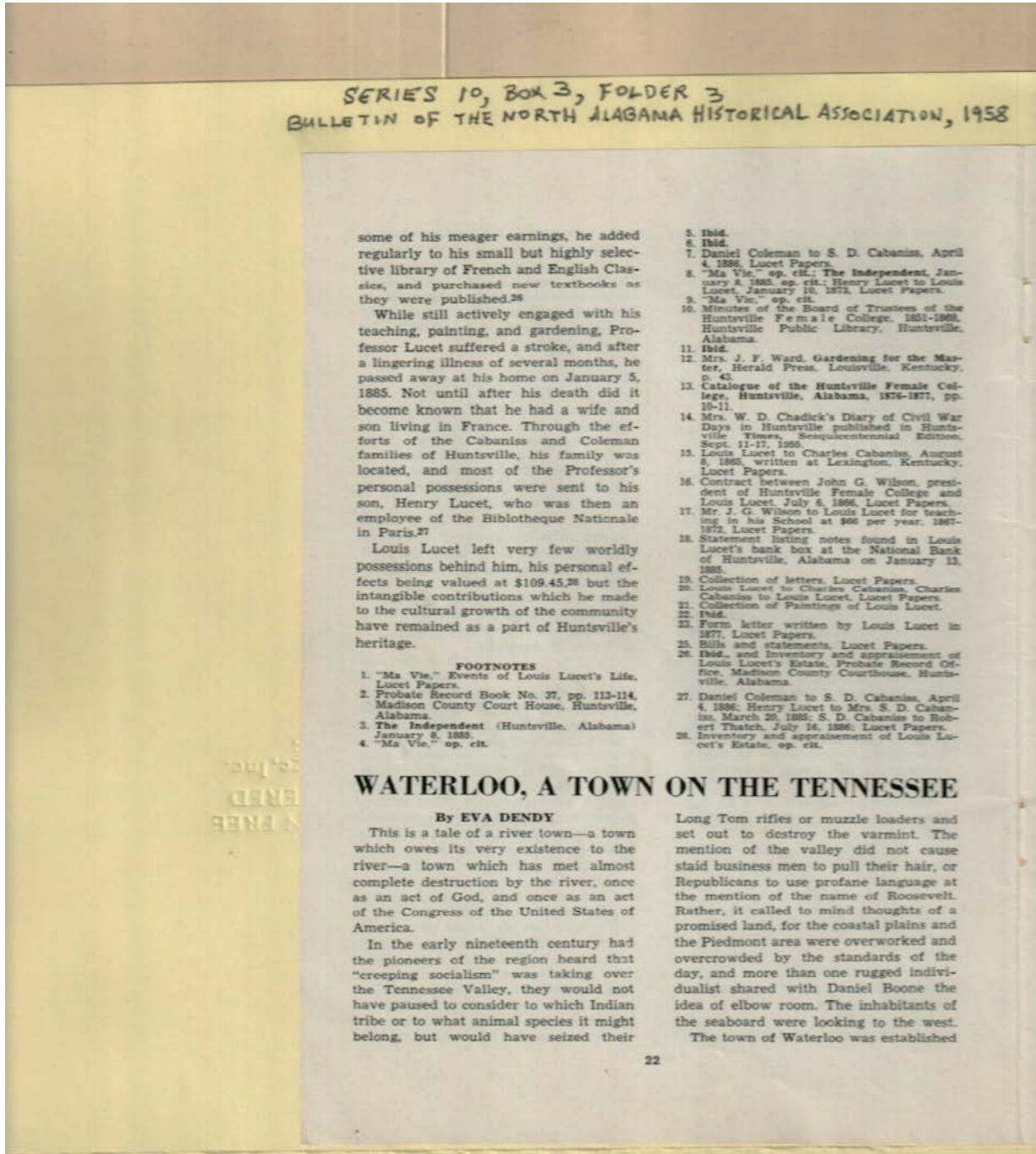
Names:

Lucet, Louis

Lucet, Professor

Types:

speech



SERIES 10, BOX 3, FOLDER 3
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some of his meager earnings, he added regularly to his small but highly selective library of French and English Classics, and purchased new textbooks as they were published.²⁶

While still actively engaged with his teaching, painting, and gardening, Professor Lucet suffered a stroke, and after a lingering illness of several months, he passed away at his home on January 5, 1885. Not until after his death did it become known that he had a wife and son living in France. Through the efforts of the Cabaniss and Coleman families of Huntsville, his family was located, and most of the Professor's personal possessions were sent to his son, Henry Lucet, who was then an employee of the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris.²⁷

Louis Lucet left very few worldly possessions behind him, his personal effects being valued at \$109.45,²⁸ but the intangible contributions which he made to the cultural growth of the community have remained as a part of Huntsville's heritage.

FOOTNOTES

1. "Ma Vie." Events of Louis Lucet's Life, Lucet Papers.
2. Probate Record Book No. 37, pp. 113-114, Madison County Court House, Huntsville, Alabama.
3. *The Independent* (Huntsville, Alabama) January 3, 1885.
4. "Ma Vie," *op. cit.*

5. *Ibid.*
6. *Ibid.*
7. Daniel Coleman to S. D. Cabaniss, April 4, 1886, Lucet Papers.
8. "Ma Vie," *op. cit.*; *The Independent*, January 3, 1885, *op. cit.*; Henry Lucet to Louis Lucet, January 18, 1873, Lucet Papers.
9. "Ma Vie," *op. cit.*
10. Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Huntsville Female College, 1851-1869, Huntsville Public Library, Huntsville, Alabama.
11. *Ibid.*
12. Mrs. J. F. Ward, *Gardening for the Master*, Herald Press, Louisville, Kentucky, p. 43.
13. Catalogue of the Huntsville Female College, Huntsville, Alabama, 1876-1877, pp. 18-19.
14. Mrs. W. D. Chadick's Diary of Civil War Days in Huntsville published in *Huntsville Times*, Sesquicentennial Edition, Sept. 11-17, 1935.
15. Louis Lucet to Charles Cabaniss, August 8, 1865, written at Lexington, Kentucky, Lucet Papers.
16. Contract between John G. Wilson, president of Huntsville Female College and Louis Lucet, July 8, 1866, Lucet Papers.
17. Mr. J. G. Wilson to Louis Lucet for teaching in his school at \$66 per year, 1867-1872, Lucet Papers.
18. Statement listing notes found in Louis Lucet's bank box at the National Bank of Huntsville, Alabama on January 13, 1885.
19. Collection of letters, Lucet Papers.
20. Louis Lucet to Charles Cabaniss, Charles Cabaniss to Louis Lucet, Lucet Papers.
21. Collection of Paintings of Louis Lucet.
22. *Ibid.*
23. Form letter written by Louis Lucet in 1877, Lucet Papers.
24. Bills and statements, Lucet Papers.
25. *Ibid.*, and inventory and appraisement of Louis Lucet's Estate, Probate Record Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.
26. Daniel Coleman to S. D. Cabaniss, April 4, 1886; Henry Lucet to Mrs. S. D. Cabaniss, March 25, 1885; S. D. Cabaniss to Robert Thatch, July 14, 1886; Lucet Papers.
27. Inventory and appraisement of Louis Lucet's Estate, *op. cit.*

WATERLOO, A TOWN ON THE TENNESSEE

By EVA DENDY

This is a tale of a river town—a town which owes its very existence to the river—a town which has met almost complete destruction by the river, once as an act of God, and once as an act of the Congress of the United States of America.

In the early nineteenth century had the pioneers of the region heard that "creeping socialism" was taking over the Tennessee Valley, they would not have paused to consider to which Indian tribe or to what animal species it might belong, but would have seized their

Long Tom rifles or muzzle loaders and set out to destroy the varmint. The mention of the valley did not cause staid business men to pull their hair, or Republicans to use profane language at the mention of the name of Roosevelt. Rather, it called to mind thoughts of a promised land, for the coastal plains and the Piedmont area were overworked and overcrowded by the standards of the day, and more than one rugged individualist shared with Daniel Boone the idea of elbow room. The inhabitants of the seaboard were looking to the west. The town of Waterloo was established

Names:

Boone, Daniel
Cabaniss, Charles
Cabaniss, S. D.
Cabaniss, S. D., Mrs.

Chadick, W. D., Mrs.
Coleman, Daniel
Dendy, Eva
Lucet, Henry

Lucet, Louis,
Professor
Roosevelt,
Thatch, Robert

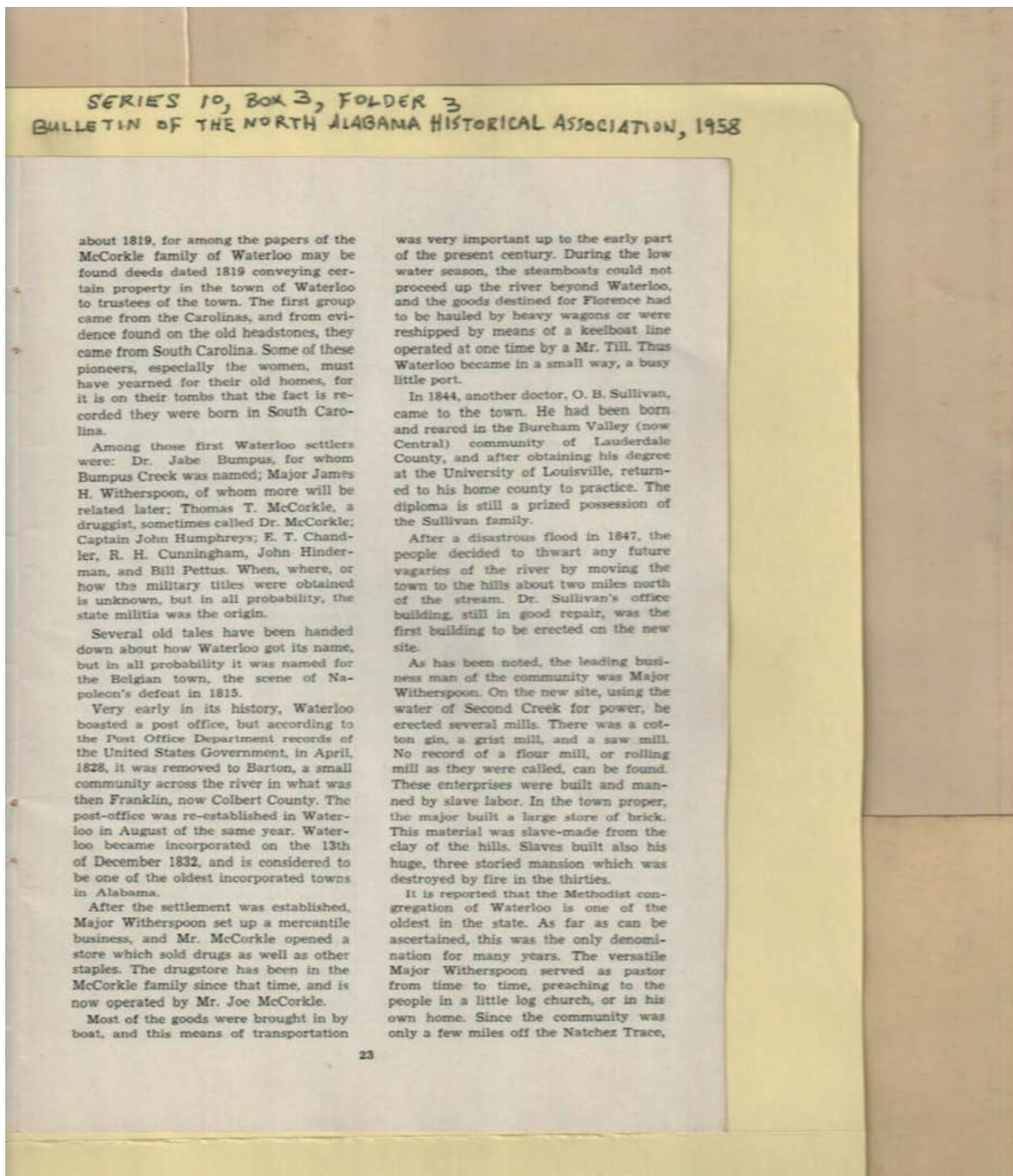
Ward, J. F., Mrs.
Wilson, John G., Dr.
Waterloo, A Town on
the Tennessee

Places:

Lauderdale Co., AL

Types:

speech



Names:

Bumpus, Jabe, Dr.
Chandler, E. T.
Cunningham, R. H.
Hinderman, John

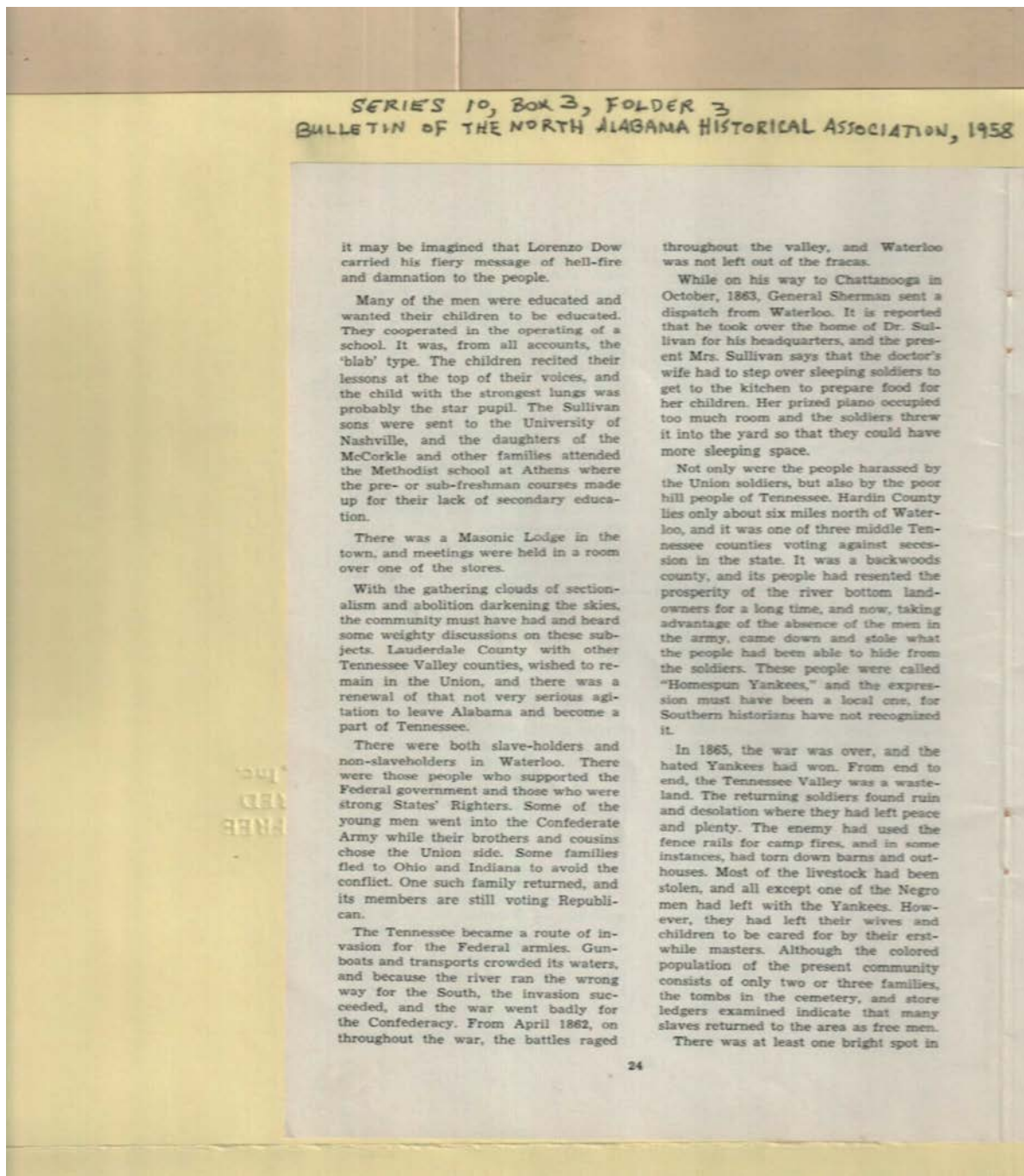
Humphreys, John,
Captain
McCorkle, Dr.
McCorkle, Joe

McCorkle, Thomas T.
Pettus, Bill
Sullivan, Dr.
Sullivan, O. B.

Till,
Witherspoon, James
H., Major

Types:

speech



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BULLETIN OF THE NORTH ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, 1958

it may be imagined that Lorenzo Dow carried his fiery message of hell-fire and damnation to the people.

Many of the men were educated and wanted their children to be educated. They cooperated in the operating of a school. It was, from all accounts, the 'blab' type. The children recited their lessons at the top of their voices, and the child with the strongest lungs was probably the star pupil. The Sullivan sons were sent to the University of Nashville, and the daughters of the McCorkle and other families attended the Methodist school at Athens where the pre- or sub-freshman courses made up for their lack of secondary education.

There was a Masonic Lodge in the town, and meetings were held in a room over one of the stores.

With the gathering clouds of sectionalism and abolition darkening the skies, the community must have had and heard some weighty discussions on these subjects. Lauderdale County with other Tennessee Valley counties, wished to remain in the Union, and there was a renewal of that not very serious agitation to leave Alabama and become a part of Tennessee.

There were both slave-holders and non-slaveholders in Waterloo. There were those people who supported the Federal government and those who were strong States' Righters. Some of the young men went into the Confederate Army while their brothers and cousins chose the Union side. Some families fled to Ohio and Indiana to avoid the conflict. One such family returned, and its members are still voting Republican.

The Tennessee became a route of invasion for the Federal armies. Gunboats and transports crowded its waters, and because the river ran the wrong way for the South, the invasion succeeded, and the war went badly for the Confederacy. From April 1862, on throughout the war, the battles raged

throughout the valley, and Waterloo was not left out of the fracas.

While on his way to Chattanooga in October, 1863, General Sherman sent a dispatch from Waterloo. It is reported that he took over the home of Dr. Sullivan for his headquarters, and the present Mrs. Sullivan says that the doctor's wife had to step over sleeping soldiers to get to the kitchen to prepare food for her children. Her prized piano occupied too much room and the soldiers threw it into the yard so that they could have more sleeping space.

Not only were the people harassed by the Union soldiers, but also by the poor hill people of Tennessee. Hardin County lies only about six miles north of Waterloo, and it was one of three middle Tennessee counties voting against secession in the state. It was a backwoods county, and its people had resented the prosperity of the river bottom land-owners for a long time, and now, taking advantage of the absence of the men in the army, came down and stole what the people had been able to hide from the soldiers. These people were called "Homespun Yankees," and the expression must have been a local one, for Southern historians have not recognized it.

In 1865, the war was over, and the hated Yankees had won. From end to end, the Tennessee Valley was a wasteland. The returning soldiers found ruin and desolation where they had left peace and plenty. The enemy had used the fence rails for camp fires, and in some instances, had torn down barns and out-houses. Most of the livestock had been stolen, and all except one of the Negro men had left with the Yankees. However, they had left their wives and children to be cared for by their erst-while masters. Although the colored population of the present community consists of only two or three families, the tombs in the cemetery, and store ledgers examined indicate that many slaves returned to the area as free men.

There was at least one bright spot in

Names:

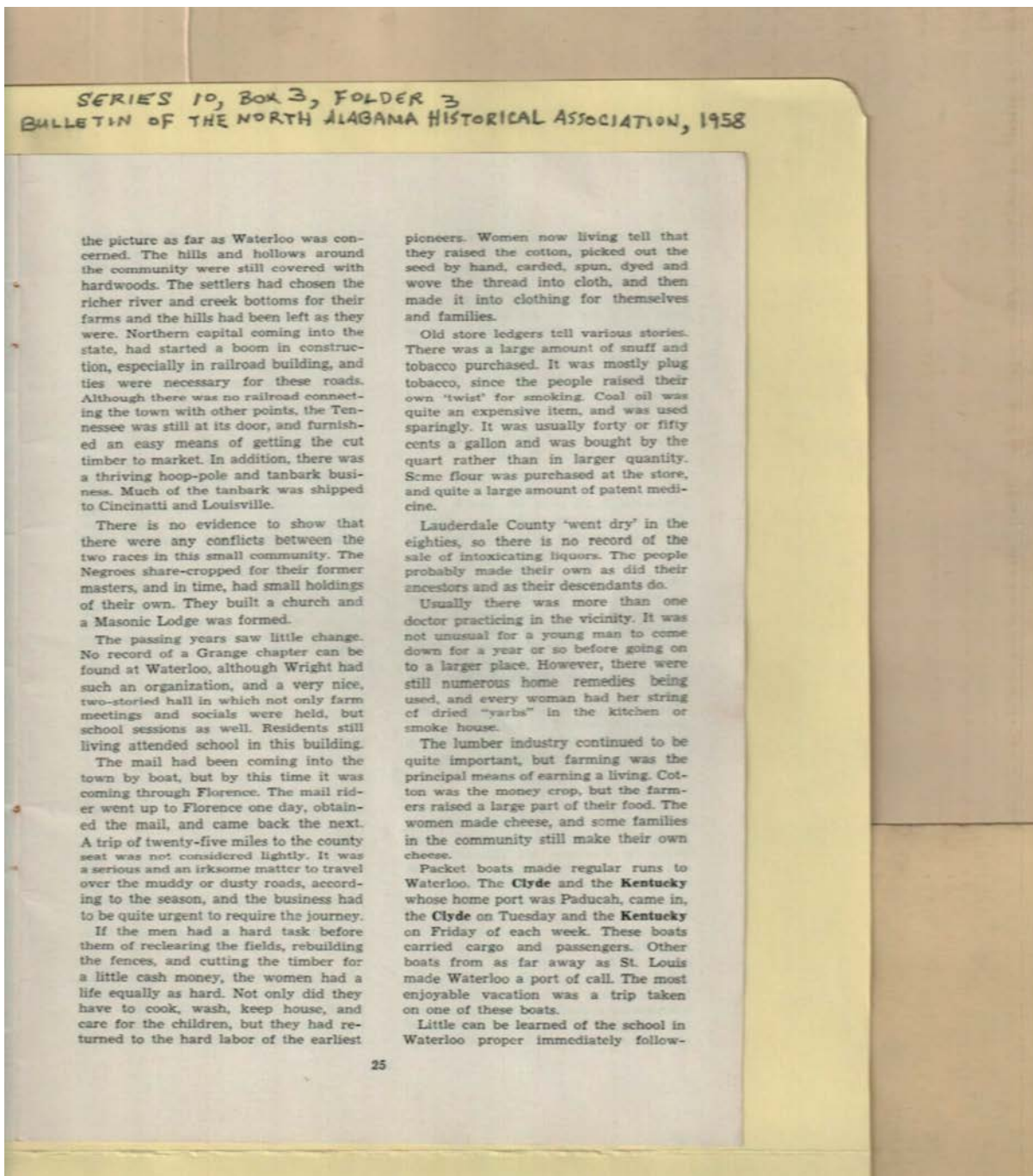
Dow, Lorenzo
McCorkle,

Sherman, General
Sullivan, Dr.

Sullivan, Mrs.

Types:

speech



the picture as far as Waterloo was concerned. The hills and hollows around the community were still covered with hardwoods. The settlers had chosen the richer river and creek bottoms for their farms and the hills had been left as they were. Northern capital coming into the state, had started a boom in construction, especially in railroad building, and ties were necessary for these roads. Although there was no railroad connecting the town with other points, the Tennessee was still at its door, and furnished an easy means of getting the cut timber to market. In addition, there was a thriving hoop-pole and tanbark business. Much of the tanbark was shipped to Cincinnati and Louisville.

There is no evidence to show that there were any conflicts between the two races in this small community. The Negroes share-cropped for their former masters, and in time, had small holdings of their own. They built a church and a Masonic Lodge was formed.

The passing years saw little change. No record of a Grange chapter can be found at Waterloo, although Wright had such an organization, and a very nice, two-storied hall in which not only farm meetings and socials were held, but school sessions as well. Residents still living attended school in this building.

The mail had been coming into the town by boat, but by this time it was coming through Florence. The mail rider went up to Florence one day, obtained the mail, and came back the next. A trip of twenty-five miles to the county seat was not considered lightly. It was a serious and an irksome matter to travel over the muddy or dusty roads, according to the season, and the business had to be quite urgent to require the journey.

If the men had a hard task before them of reclearing the fields, rebuilding the fences, and cutting the timber for a little cash money, the women had a life equally as hard. Not only did they have to cook, wash, keep house, and care for the children, but they had returned to the hard labor of the earliest

pioneers. Women now living tell that they raised the cotton, picked out the seed by hand, carded, spun, dyed and wove the thread into cloth, and then made it into clothing for themselves and families.

Old store ledgers tell various stories. There was a large amount of snuff and tobacco purchased. It was mostly plug tobacco, since the people raised their own 'twist' for smoking. Coal oil was quite an expensive item, and was used sparingly. It was usually forty or fifty cents a gallon and was bought by the quart rather than in larger quantity. Some flour was purchased at the store, and quite a large amount of patent medicine.

Lauderdale County "went dry" in the eighties, so there is no record of the sale of intoxicating liquors. The people probably made their own as did their ancestors and as their descendants do.

Usually there was more than one doctor practicing in the vicinity. It was not unusual for a young man to come down for a year or so before going on to a larger place. However, there were still numerous home remedies being used, and every woman had her string of dried "yarbs" in the kitchen or smoke house.

The lumber industry continued to be quite important, but farming was the principal means of earning a living. Cotton was the money crop, but the farmers raised a large part of their food. The women made cheese, and some families in the community still make their own cheese.

Packet boats made regular runs to Waterloo. The **Clyde** and the **Kentucky** whose home port was Paducah, came in, the **Clyde** on Tuesday and the **Kentucky** on Friday of each week. These boats carried cargo and passengers. Other boats from as far away as St. Louis made Waterloo a port of call. The most enjoyable vacation was a trip taken on one of these boats.

Little can be learned of the school in Waterloo proper immediately follow-

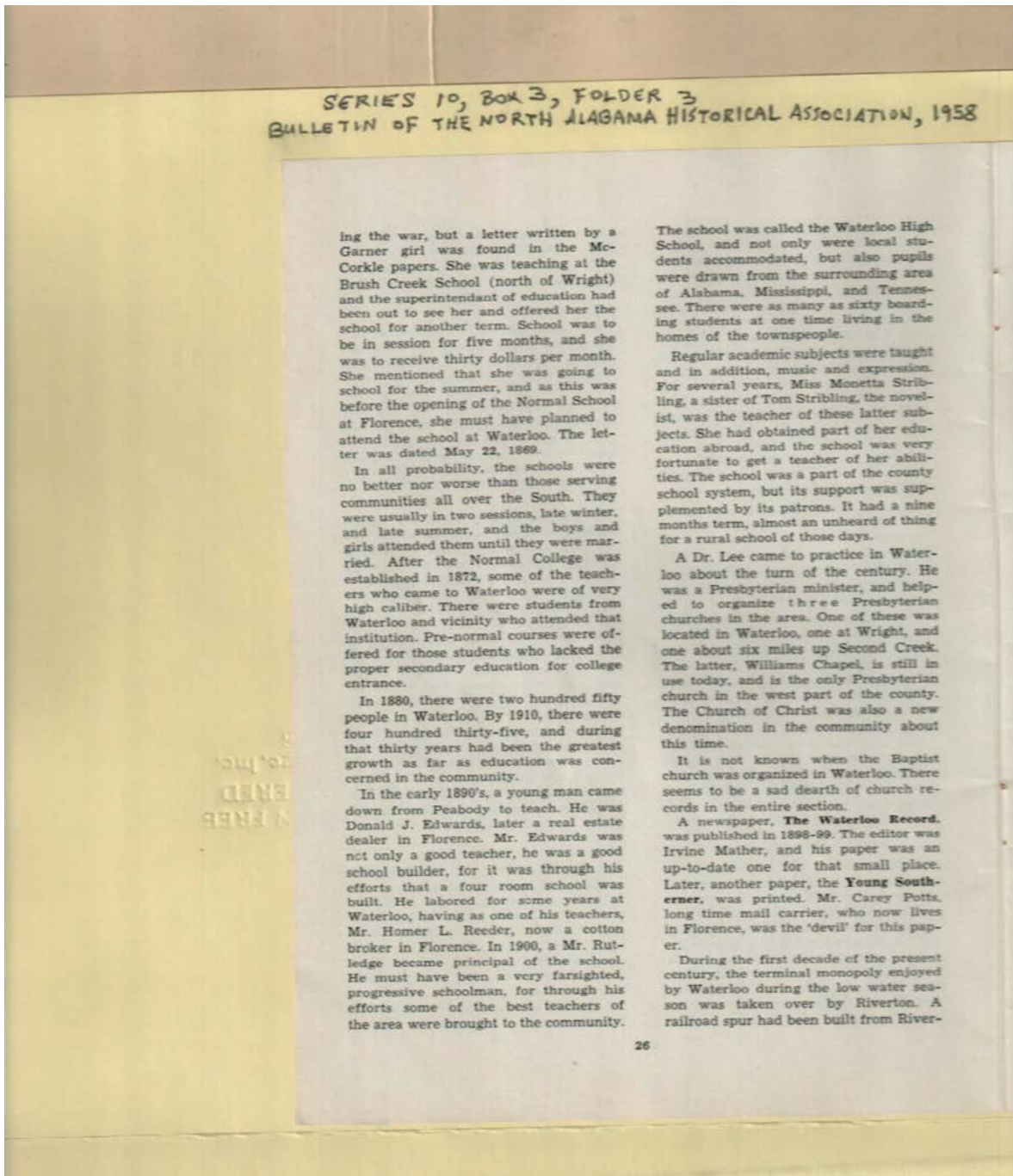
Names:

Clyde (Steamer)

Kentucky (Steamer)

Types:

speech



Names:

Edwards, Donald J.
Garner,
Lee, Dr.

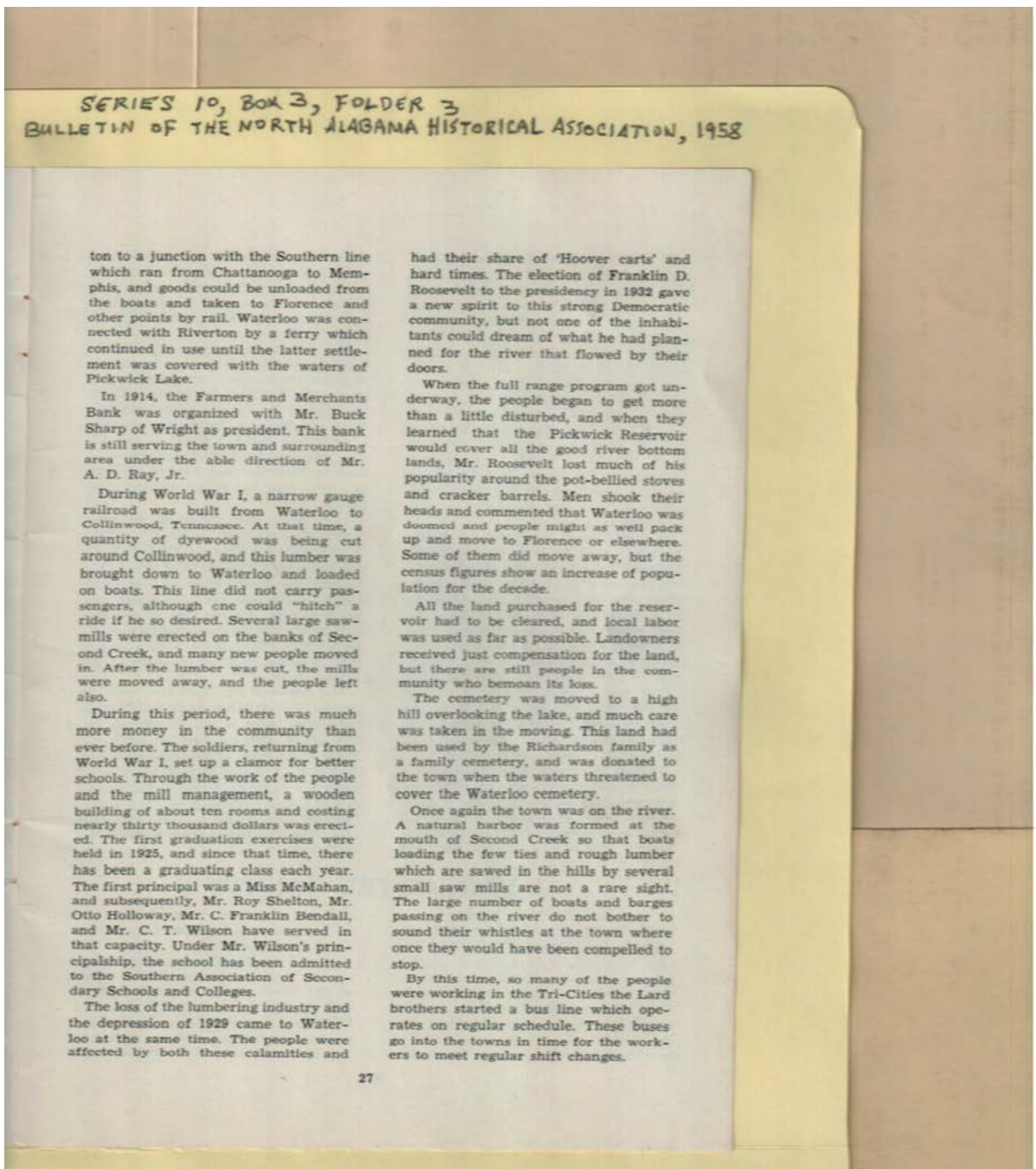
Mather, Irvine
McCorkle,
Potts, Carey

Reeder, Homer L.
Rutledge,

Stribling, Monetta,
Miss
Stribling, Tom

Types:

speech



Names:

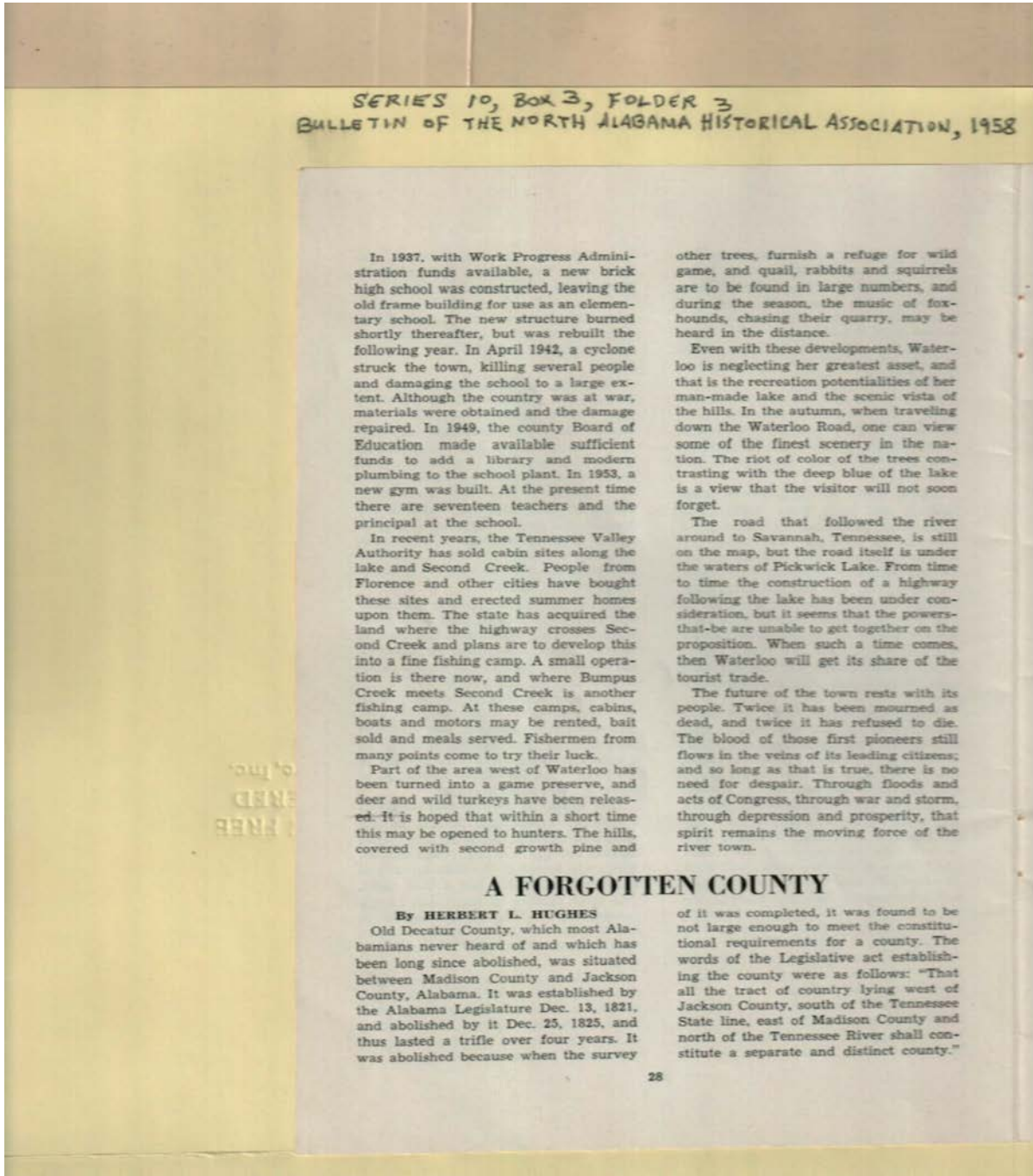
Bendall, C. Franklin
Holloway, Otto
McMahan, Miss

Ray, A. D., Jr.
Roosevelt, Franklin
D., President

Sharp, Buck
Shelton, Roy
Wilson, C. T.

Types:

speech



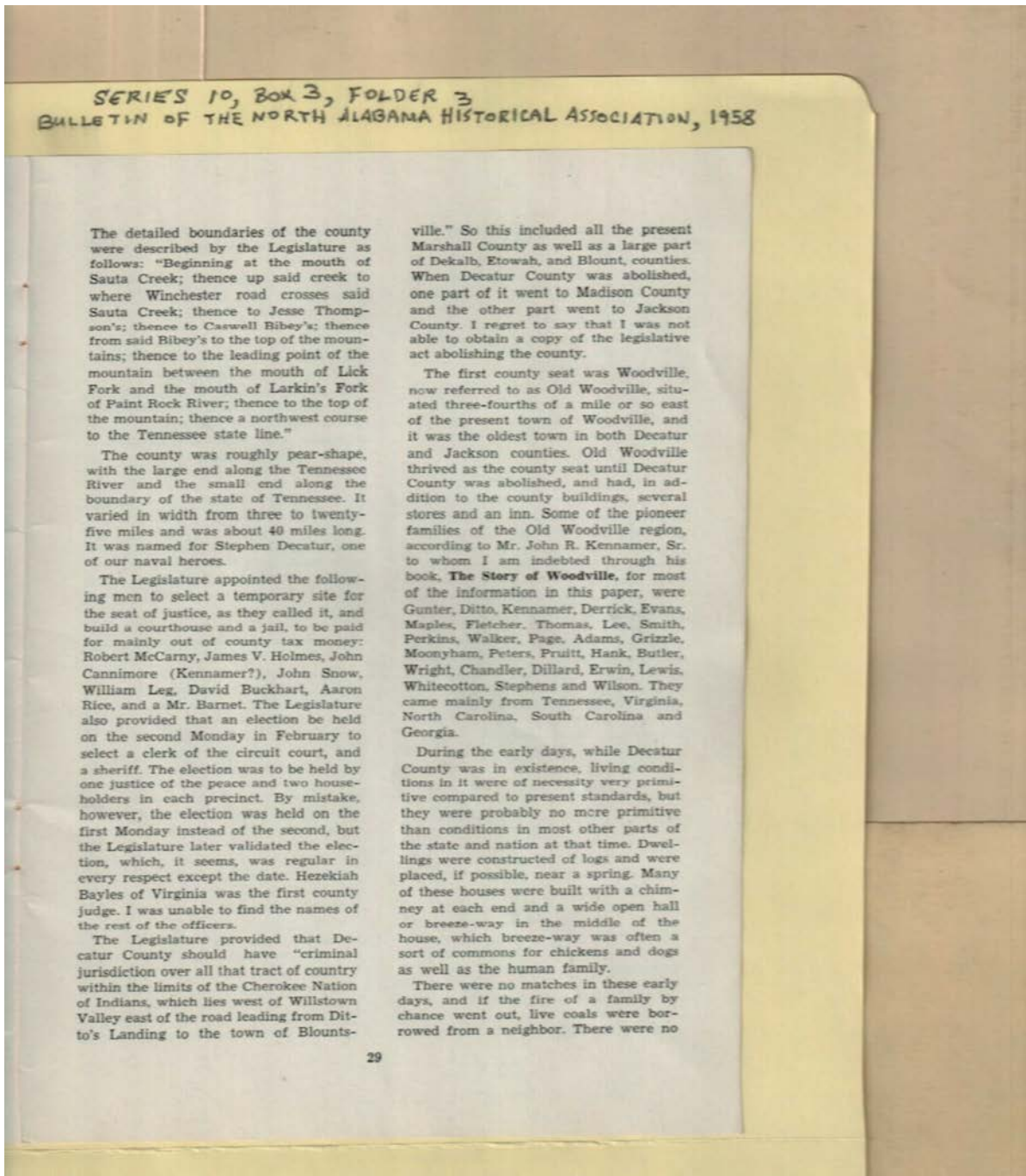
Names:

Hughes, Herbert L.

A Forgotten County

Types:

speech

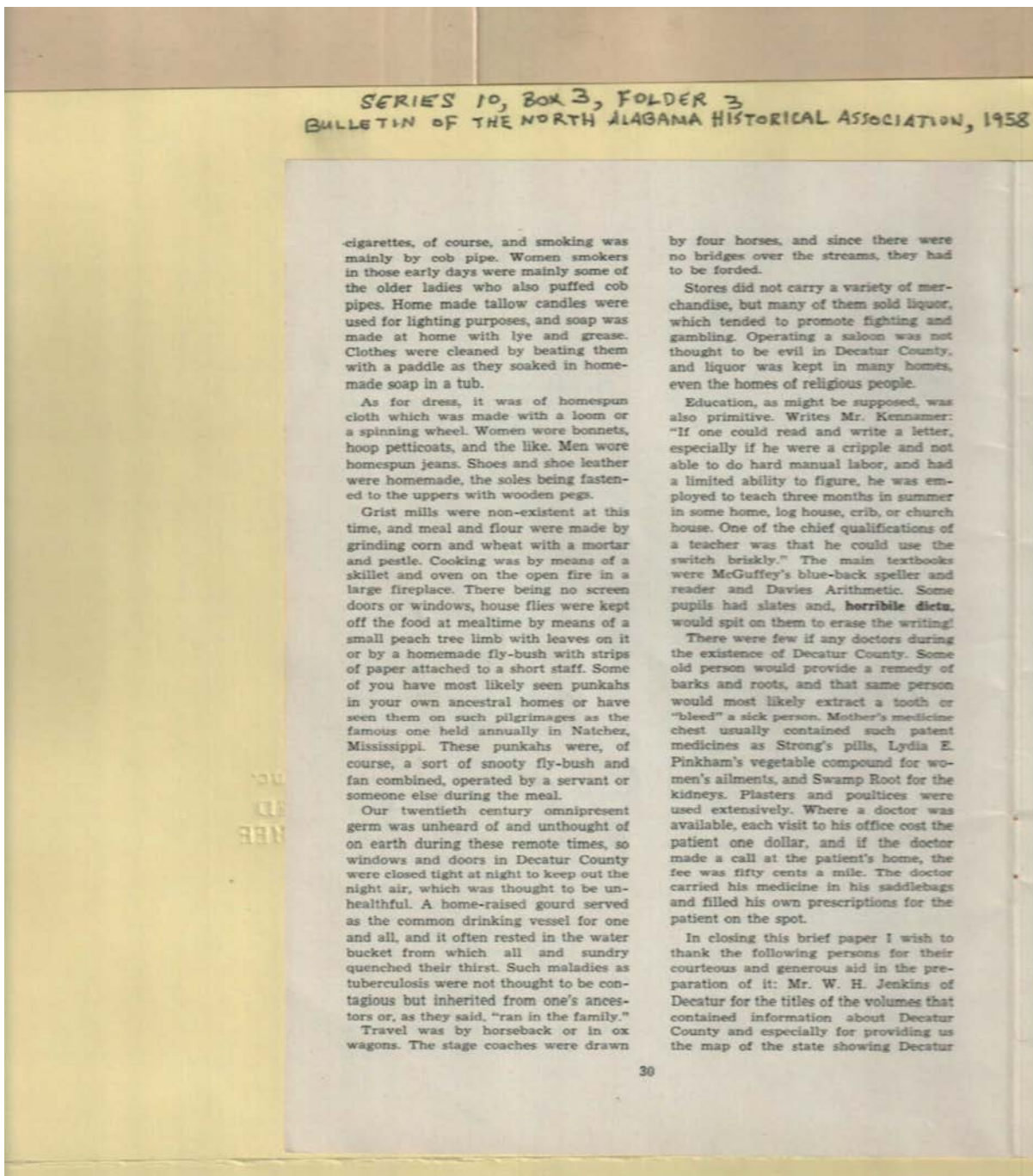


Names:

Adams,	Erwin,	Leg, William	Snow, John
Barnet,	Evans,	Lewis,	Stephens,
Bibey, Caswell	Fletcher,	Maples,	Thomas,
Buckhart, David	Grizzle,	McCarny, Robert	Thompson, Jesse
Butler,	Gunter,	Moonyham,	Walker,
Cannimore, John	Hank,	Page,	Whitecotton,
Chandler,	Holmes, James V.	Perkins,	Wilson,
Decatur, Stephen	Kennamer, John	Peters,	Wright,
Derrick,	Kennamer, John R.,	Pruitt,	
Dillard,	Sr.	Rice, Aaron	
Ditto,	Lee,	Smith,	

Types:

speech



Names:

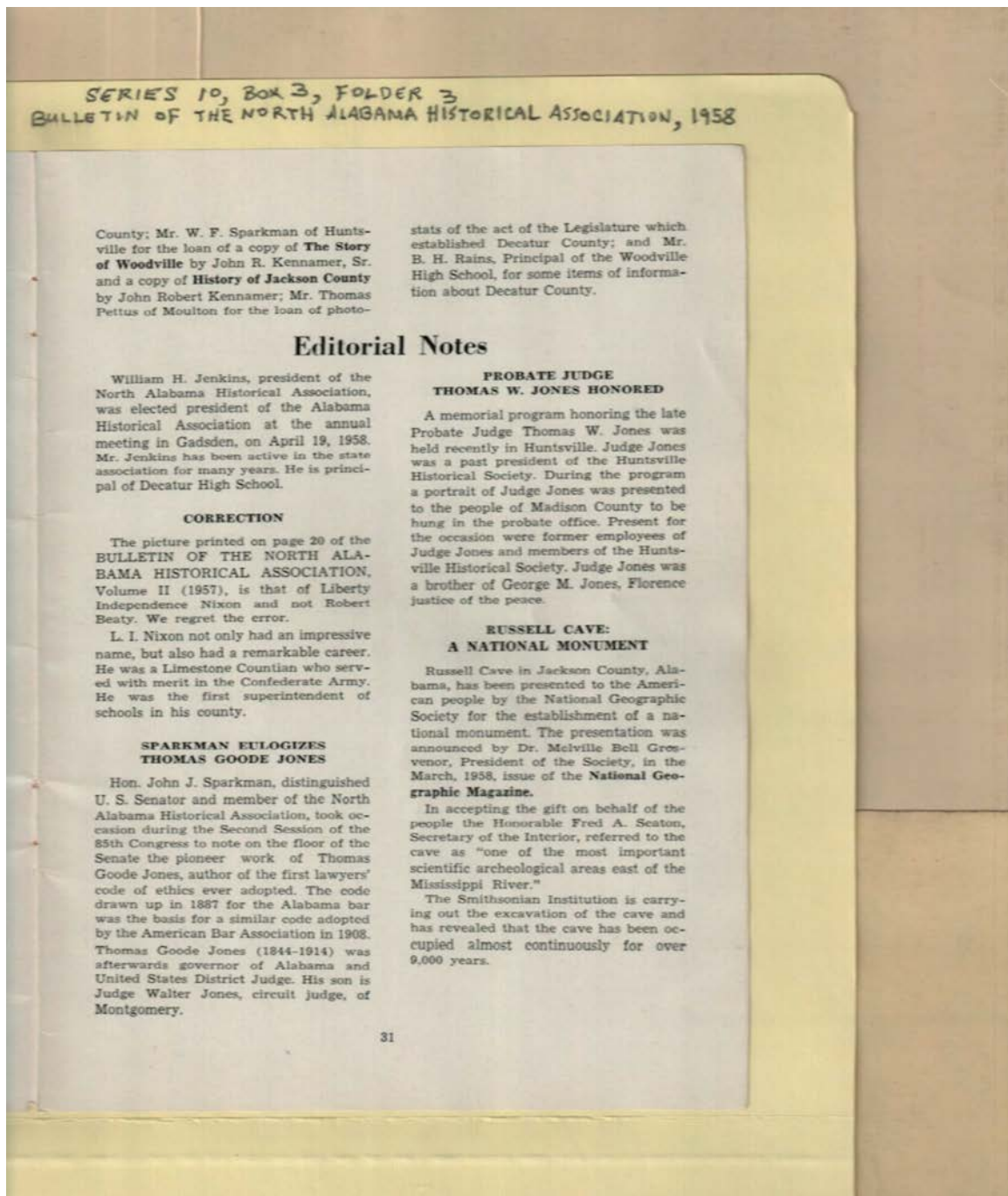
Davies,
Jenkins, W. H.

Kennamer,
McGuffey,

Pinkham, Lydia E.

Types:

speech



Names:

Beatty, Robert
Grosvenor, Melville
Bell, Dr.
Jenkins, William H.
Jones, George M.
Jones, Thomas Goode

Jones, Thomas W.,
Judge
Jones, Walter, Judge
Kenamer, John R.,
Sr.

Kenamer, John
Robert
Nixon, Liberty
Independence
Pettus, Thomas
Rains, B. H.

Seaton, Fred A.
Sparkman, John J.,
Senator
Sparkman, W. F.

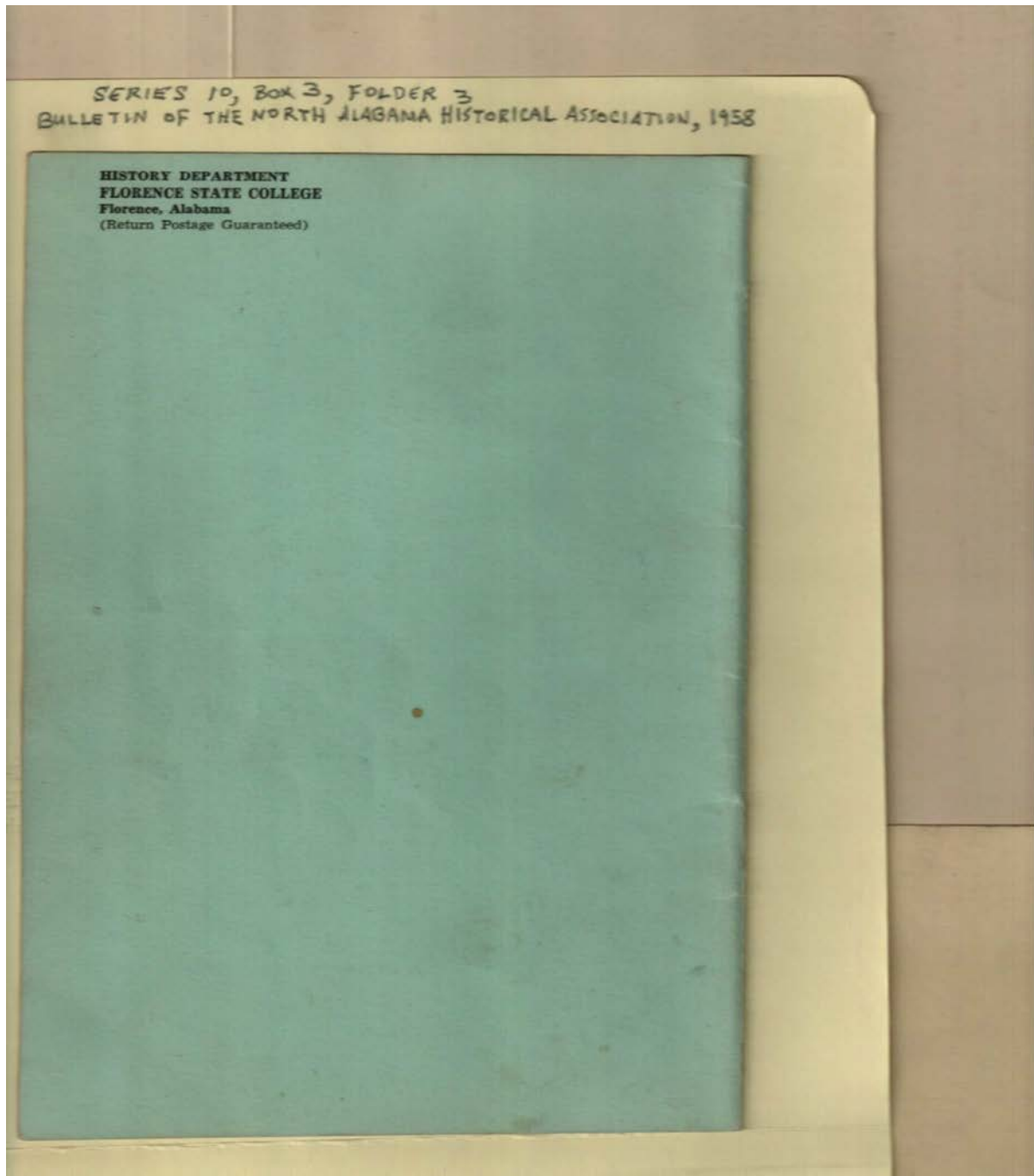
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College, AL

Types:

bulletin

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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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