



Mississippi University  
for Women  
*A Tradition of Excellence for Women and Men*

# University Archives Inventory

**Record Group Number:** UR001.01

**Title:** John Clayton Fant Records

**Date:** 1882-1929

**Bulk Date:** 1926-1929

**Extent:** 3 boxes, 1 oversize box

**Creator:** John Clayton Fant

**Administrative/Biographical Notes:** John Clayton Fant was born near Macon, Mississippi on January 15, 1870. Fant graduated in 1889 from Emory and Henry College in Virginia and went on to receive a Master's degree in Pedagogy from University of Mississippi. Fant also received a doctoral degree in Pedagogy from New York University. He was the first president at Mississippi State College for Women to hold such an achievement.

John Clayton Fant's teaching career began in Newton, Mississippi and progressed to him taking the role as superintendent there and other places throughout Mississippi such as Water Valley and Meridian until he finally arrived at the Mississippi State College for Women in 1920. It was at the college that he met and later married Mabel Beckett (Fant), who was an alumna of the college.

Dr. Fant's tenure at Mississippi State College for Women lasted from 1920 until his death in 1929. His time as president is recognized for the many changes and programs that were beneficial to the College. Under his administration, buildings were created, land and property area expanded, and many social and religious organizations came into existence. This is particularly essential for the current Mississippi University for Women because many of the implementations that his administration set forth are still in existence.

Dr. Fant made several contributions to the university. Some of those contributions include the quality point system (which is still in effect), the aid to improve the instruction of teachers, departmental organizations, and his assistance in creating the first full-time Alumnae Secretary Office in 1925. Fant was accountable for the opening of the first nursery school on campus. He set forth drastic changes to qualify the college for affiliation with the American Association for University Women (AAUW). Dr. Fant also was responsible for getting the college accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (SACS).

One of the greatest offerings Dr. Fant ever made to the university was its library, now known as Fant Library. The library more than doubled in size and collection material to what it once was before the Fant administration. Nevertheless, Dr. Fant would never be able to see this library. He died in 1929 due to failing health and post-surgery complications. The library was named in memorial to him for his dutiful tenure as president and many contributions. Dr. John Clayton Fant died in the first quarter of his

10th year as president of Mississippi State College and was buried locally in Columbus, Mississippi. Fant will always be remembered for his problem-solving techniques, demeanor, and his hard work ethic that he applied as president.

**Scope and Content Notes:** The John Clayton Fant Records are arranged chronologically by year. It contains series of correspondence, school schedules, and other miscellaneous files from 1920-1929. The bulk of the years in this collection are between 1926 and 1929. Subjects in series include school schedules of students and teachers, correspondence during the Fant Administration, architectural contracts, billing and receipts, Student Government Council claims and decisions, newspaper clippings, and other miscellaneous files.

**System of Arrangement:** chronological

**Conditions Governing Access:** This collection is open for research.

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**Language:** English

**Finding aids:** Any item lists, files, correspondence or other miscellaneous files are available in University Archives, filed in boxes C9- C11.

**Appraisal/Destruction:** This record is slated for permanent retention.

**Description Control:** Neilson, Sarah D. "Biographical Sketch of John Clayton Fant, Seventh President." In *The History of Mississippi State College for Women*, by Sarah D. Neilson, 95-128. Columbus: Unpublished, 1954.

Pieschel, Bridget Smith, and Stephen Robert Pieschel. *Loyal Daughters*. Jackson, Mississippi: University Press of Mississippi, 1984.

Description based on DACS 2nd Edition. Access points based on Library of Congress Subject Headings and Name Authority File. Finding aid created by Jasmin Gordon, 2015.

## Folder List

Year	Box	Folder
1920-1925	C9	BOX
1920	C9	Correspondence 1920 1/1
1921	C9	Correspondence 1921 1/3
1921	C9	Correspondence 1921 2/3
1921	C9	Correspondence 1921 3/3
1922	C9	Correspondence 1922 1/4
1922	C9	Correspondence 1922 2/4



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1922	C9	Correspondence 1922 3/4
1922	C9	Correspondence 1922 4/4
1923	C9	Correspondence 1923 1/5
1923	C9	Correspondence 1923 2/5
1923	C9	Correspondence 1923 3/5
1923	C9	Correspondence 1923 4/5
1923	C9	Correspondence 1923 5/5
1924	C9	Correspondence 1924 1/2
1924	C9	Correspondence 1924 2/2
1925	C9	Correspondence 1925 1/5
1925	C9	Correspondence 1925 2/5
1925	C9	Correspondence 1925 3/5
1925	C9	Correspondence 1925 4/5
1925	C9	Correspondence 1925 5/5
1924	C9	Miscellaneous Jan./July 1924 1/2
1924	C9	Miscellaneous July/Dec. 1924 2/2
1921-1922	C9	Teachers schedules 1921-1922 (A-G)
1921-1923	C9	Teachers schedules 1921-1922 (H-R)
1921-1924	C9	Teachers schedules 1921-1922 (S-Z)
1920-1929	C10	BOX
1926	C10	Correspondence 1926 1/6
1926	C10	Correspondence 1926 2/6
1926	C10	Correspondence 1926 3/6
1926	C10	Correspondence 1926 4/6
1926	C10	Correspondence 1926 5/6
1926	C10	Correspondence 1926 6/6
1927	C10	Correspondence 1927 1/6
1927	C10	Correspondence 1927 2/6
1927	C10	Correspondence 1927 3/6
1927	C10	Correspondence 1927 4/6
1927	C10	Correspondence 1927 5/6
1927	C10	Correspondence 1927 6/6
1920-1929	C10	Miscellaneous Files 1920-1929 1/1
1925	C10	Teachers Schedules spring A-E
1925	C10	Teachers Schedules spring F-H
1925	C10	Teachers Schedules spring I-Z
1916-1932	C11	BOX
1928	C11	Correspondence 1928 1/7
1928	C11	Correspondence 1928 2/7
1928	C11	Correspondence 1928 3/7
1928	C11	Correspondence 1928 4/7



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1928	C11	Correspondence 1928 5/7
1928	C11	Correspondence 1928 6/7
1928	C11	Correspondence 1928 7/7
1929	C11	Correspondence 1929 1/8
1929	C11	Correspondence 1929 2/8
1929	C11	Correspondence 1929 3/8
1929	C11	Correspondence 1929 4/8
1929	C11	Correspondence 1929 5/8
1929	C11	Correspondence 1929 6/8
1929	C11	Correspondence 1929 7/8
1929	C11	Correspondence 1929 8/8
1916-1932	C11	Student Government Council Files
1898		John C. Fant teaching license
1889	C267 oversized	John C. Fant's BA, Emory and Henry College
1892	C267 oversized	John C. Fant's MA, Emory and Henry College
1889	C267 oversized	John C. Fant diploma, Calliope Society, Emory and Henry College
1895	C267 oversized	John C. Fant's M.Ed., SUNY
1929	C11	Developments to MSCW under Fant