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Office of the President
George P. Phenix
1893-1904

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Arranged and Described
by
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February, 2003
Willimantic, Connecticut

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DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Name	George Perley Phenix
Title	Office of the President, George P. Phenix, 1893-1904.
Extent	.5 linear feet. 1 box.
Arrangement	This material was divided into seven series and arranged chronologically within each series.
Provenance	The collection was created by the University Archives staff from many sources including state reports, local newspapers and campus publications.
Finding Aid	Printed finding aid available in repository. Electronic version: http://ecsu.archives.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/
Preferred Citation	[Series, Folder description, Date]. Office of the President, George P. Phenix, 1893-1904. University Archives, J. Eugene Smith Library, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, Connecticut 06226.
Access points	Teacher educators. Willimantic State Normal School
Occupation	Educator. Principal - Willimantic State Normal School, Willimantic, Connecticut. President - Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia.
Restrictions	None.
Document types	Print materials. Publications. Photographs.

BIOGRAPHY:

George Perley Phenix was born in Portland, Maine in September 1864. He attended Portland High School and later graduated from Colby College in Waterville, Maine. He married Miss Adeline Smith in Georgia on February 25, 1889.¹¹ In 1893 he came to Willimantic from the New Britain Normal School to become the Willimantic State Normal School's second principal.¹²

Principal Phenix was known as a serious educator with a particular interest in rural education. He was the first to recommend to the board of trustees that a dormitory be built adjacent to the main school building "so that training in the art of teaching and management" could be added to subject studies. Mr. Phenix was characterized by those who knew him as a man of "true-heartedness, simplicity and genuine unselfishness".¹² In 1904 after ten years of service, he left his position at the Normal School to become the principal and later president of the Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia where he served with distinction until his death in October 1930.¹³

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The Office of the President Collection contains materials and information gathered to document the tenure of the principals and presidents of this public institution. Due to a fire in 1943 that destroyed the administration-classroom building, much of the original documentation pertaining to the early principals and first president was lost. Information, collected to document each era, has been taken from local newspapers, publications and the donations of faculty, staff and alumni.

This collection offers information about the school's second principal, George Perley Phenix. It includes articles about him and the school, eleven annual reports submitted while at Willimantic plus two papers published in 1924 and a tribute piece about his career written at the time of his death.

SERIES DESCRIPTION:

Series I - Committees

This series includes a listing of school administrators and staff during Principal Phenix's tenure at the school.

Series II - Correspondence

This series offers a copy of correspondence with Mr. H. B. Frissell in which Principal Phenix accepts the position as principal of the Hampton Institute.

Series III - News clippings

This series includes news items written during Principal Phenix's tenure at the Willimantic Normal School with several articles written about lectures and presentations he made.

Series IV - Publications

This series offers a copy of the school catalog for 1895 which includes sketches and photographs of the school's first administration building which opened in 1894. It also includes a copy of "The History of Hampton Institute 1868-1949" which offers information related to Phenix's

subsequent position as president of that institution and the groundwork for a student exchange program between Hampton Institute and the Willimantic State College which developed in the 1950's. This series also includes biographical information gathered from publications and includes a tribute publication of *The Southern Workman* produced by Hampton Institute at the time of his death.

Series V - Reports

This series includes copies of the eleven (11) annual reports Principal Phenix submitted to the Connecticut State Board of Education.

Series VI - Photographs

This series includes a photocopy of a portrait of Principal George P. Phenix created for the school's centennial celebration in 1989. The original portrait hangs in the University Archives.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

¹ *Annual Report of the Board of Education of the State of Connecticut submitted to the Governor, January 23, 1895.* Hartford, CT : Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainerd Company, 1895.

² *Annual Report of the Board of Education of the State of Connecticut submitted to the Governor, March 31, 1896.* Hartford, CT : Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainerd Company, 1896.

³ *Annual Report of the Board of Education of the State of Connecticut submitted to the Governor, May 15, 1897.* Hartford, CT : Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainerd Company, 1897.

⁴ *Annual Report of the Board of Education of the State of Connecticut submitted to the Governor, together with the report of the Secretary of the Board.* Hartford, CT : Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainerd Company, 1898.

⁵ *Annual Report of the Board of Education of the State of Connecticut submitted to the Governor, together with the report of the Secretary of the Board.* Hartford, CT : Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainerd Company, 1899.

⁶ *Annual Report of the Board of Education of the State of Connecticut submitted to the Governor, together with the report of the Secretary of the Board.* Hartford, CT : Hartford Press, Case, Lockwood & Brainerd Company, 1900.

⁷ *Annual Report of the Board of Education of the State of Connecticut submitted to the Governor, together with the report of the Secretary of the Board.* Hartford, CT : Hartford Press, Case, Lockwood & Brainerd Company, 1901.

⁸ *Annual Report of the Board of Education of the State of Connecticut submitted to the Governor, together with the report of the Secretary of the Board.* Hartford, CT : Hartford Press, Case, Lockwood & Brainerd Company, 1902.

⁹*Annual Report of the Board of Education of the State of Connecticut submitted to the Governor, together with the report of the Secretary of the Board.* Hartford, CT : Hartford Press, Case, Lockwood & Brainerd Company, 1903.

¹⁰*Annual Report of the Board of Education of the State of Connecticut submitted to the Governor, together with the report of the Secretary of the Board.* Hartford, CT : Hartford Press, Case, Lockwood & Brainerd Company, 1905.

¹¹Civil Records. Bibb, Georgia, FHL Number 394117, 1882-1909.

¹²“Principal Resigns”. *Willimantic Chronicle*, May 4, 1904, p. 1.

¹³Series V – Publications, *The History of Hampton Institute 1868-1949* [a dissertation], 1954. Robinson, William Hannibal. Office of the President, George Perley Phenix, 1893-1904. University Archives, J. Eugene Smith Library, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, Connecticut 06226.

¹⁴Series V – Publications, “From Principal to President: George P. Phenix and Southern Education” (Tucker), 2005. Office of the President, George Perley Phenix, 1893-1904. University Archives, J. Eugene Smith Library, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, Connecticut 06226.

¹⁵Series V – Publications, “George P. Phenix Exhibit” (Tucker), Fall 2000. Office of the President, George Perley Phenix, 1893-1904. University Archives, J. Eugene Smith Library, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, Connecticut 06226.

¹⁶Willey, C. Francis. “Willimantic State Teacher’s College (1889-1947)”. *Teacher Education Quarterly* 7 (Fall 1949).

RELATED COLLECTIONS:

Related material may be found in the archive’s Photograph Collection, University Events and Print Collection/Catalogs & News clippings. Material related to the student exchange program with the Hampton Institute may be found in the C. Francis Willey Collection. The University Archives has a substantial collection of university archives material and also houses the Connecticut Studies Collection. For more detailed information on these collections please contact the staff member at the reference desk.

Further information about George Perley Phenix may also be found in the University Museum & Archives, Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia 23668 in the “George Perley Phenix Papers, 1900-1930”.

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Box Folder

Date

George P. Phenix, 1893-1904, 2nd Principal

Series I – Committees

1	Faculty and State Board of Education	23 Jan 1895
	Faculty and State Board of Education	31 Mar 1896
	Faculty and State Board of Education	15 May 1897
	Faculty and State Board of Education	1898
	Faculty and State Board of Education	1899
	Catalogue	1902-1903
	Faculty and State Board of Education	1903

Series II - Correspondence

Dr. H. B. Frissell	9 May 1904
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Series III - News clippings

Normal School building	4 April 1895
Annual Report of State Normal School	9 Aug 1898
<i>Willimantic Normal Ideas on Arithmetic</i>	21 May 1900
Normal Graduation	20 Jun 1900
Phenix lobbies for Normal School	Jan-Apr. 1901
Praise for Willimantic Normal School	23 May 1901
Normal School Graduation	June 1901
G.P.Phenix seventh annual report	15 April 1902
Updates on Principal Phenix & Normal School Addition	1902
<i>Lectures & Whereabouts of Principle Phenix</i>	1903
Normal School Activities	Feb-Mar 1903
Normal School Graduation Exercises	20 Jun 1903
Updates on Principle Phenix & Normal School	1904
Principal Phenix Resigns	May–Jun 1904
Phenix’s Successor Named	9 June 1904
“Phenix...elected fourth principal of Hampton Institute...”	[1904-1905]
Obituaries and tributes	October 1930
Hampton University Board of Trustees (1930)	July 1987
“George P. Phenix Exhibit”	Fall 2000

Series IV - Papers/Speeches

“Adaptation of Courses to Meet Changing Needs”	1924
“Shaping Courses to Meet Changing Conditions”	1924

Series V - Publications

Normal- Training School Catalogue	1895-96
Memorial Number, <i>The Southern Workman</i>	December 1930
“The History of Hampton Institute 1868-1949”	1954
“From Principal to President: George P. Phenix and Southern Education” Barbara M. Tucker	2005

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>
George P. Phenix, 1893-1904, 2nd Principal		
Series V - Publications		
1	General information	2005
Series VI - Reports		
	Reports of School Visitors, 1893-1894	1895
	Annual report to the CT State Board of Education	1894, 1895
	Annual report to the CT State Board of Education	1896, 1897
	Annual report to the CT State Board of Education	1898, 1899
	Annual report to the CT State Board of Education	1900, 1901
	Annual report to the CT State Board of Education	1902, 1903
	Annual report to the CT State Board of Education	1904
	Annual Report (Hampton Institute)	1912-1913
Series VII - Photographs		
	George P. Phenix, portrait photograph (Grube)	n.d.