

Collection #
SC 0100

**BLEDSON FAMILY FRANKLIN COLLEGE
COLLECTION, CA. 1836-1913**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript folders

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1836-1913

PROVENANCE: Robert Bledsoe Family, Franklin, IN

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Cady, John F. *The Centennial History of Franklin College*, LD1861.F42 C3 1934; Franklin College Board of Trustees. *First Half Century of ... Franklin College ... Franklin, Ind., [1834-1884]* LD1861.F42 F7 1884.

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1964.1010

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Franklin College was founded in 1834 as the Indiana Baptist Manual Labor Institute. In 1844, the name was changed to Franklin College and the campus was expanded with the construction of a new brick building to replace the original wood structure. Franklin began to admit women as students in 1842, becoming the first college in Indiana and seventh in the United States to do so. The first President of Franklin College, George C. Chandler, oversaw these changes during his tenure from 1843-1852. Chandler's presidency was faced with financial difficulties caused by the construction of the new building. Silas Bailey then took over as President from 1852-1863, during which time the college continued to experience growth with the construction of a second brick building and increasing enrollment. In order to finance this growth and establish an endowment, Bailey and Chandler sent fundraisers across the state to raise money via donations and subscriptions.

Sources:

"U.S., *School Yearbooks, 1880-2012*"; School Name: *Franklin College*; Year: 1898.
Ancestry.com.

Trares, Ryan. "Higher Learning." *Johnson County Daily Journal*, July 6, 2016.
http://www.dailyjournal.net/2016/04/08/higher_learning/.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection mainly consists of financial documents related to the building and funding of Franklin College from 1836-1863. Many of the documents are payment receipts written by builders and other workers confirming they were paid by the college for their work. There are also receipts for funds collected by the college from donors across the state. Folder 1 contains payment receipts from 1836-1844. Folder 2 contains more payment receipts along with ledgers of donations and subscriptions given to agents of the college from 1845-1850. Folder 3 contains reports from the Treasurer and other board members to the Board of Trustees along with more donation ledgers and receipts from 1851-1863. It also includes two unsigned and undated essays on friendship and the benefits of nature walks and a pamphlet for a 1913 Gettysburg celebration.

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