

Gettysburg College
Musselman Library, Special Collections
Records Management Program

Record Group: RG 2.0.3 Office of the President
Office: President Milton Valentine

Biography:

Milton Valentine (1825-1906) served as the third president of Pennsylvania College of Gettysburg for 16 years from 1868 until 1884. Born near Uniontown, MD in 1825, he was a member of the graduating class of 1850, the first alumnus to become president of the College. After graduation, he served for two years as a tutor in the preparatory school while attending the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Licensed in 1852, he served parishes in Winchester, Va., Pittsburgh, Greensburg and Reading before being called to the Seminary as Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Church Polity. He received an honorary D.D. degree from Pennsylvania College in 1866.

Inaugurated as President of Pennsylvania College on December 21, 1868, in Christ Lutheran Church, Valentine was a reluctant chief executive serving primarily out of a pronounced sense of duty. While more comfortable as a teacher, (as president he occupied the professorship of Intellectual and Moral Science), Valentine, nevertheless, lead the institution faithfully during a period of hard financial times for the country and for the Lutheran church. When the Board, in 1873, undertook an ambitious program to raise \$125,000 expecting the president to lead in this effort, Valentine announced his intention to resign. After the Board refused to accept his resignation and raised his salary, as before, Valentine reluctantly agreed to stay but asked the Board to make every effort to improve the financial position of the college and to relieve him from "some of the confinement and drudgery hitherto attached to the office."

In March 1884, after accepting a call to return to the seminary faculty, Valentine again resigned. He remained an active member of the Board of Trustees until his death in 1906.

Scope and Content Notes:

While the papers of President Milton Valentine do not exist as a distinct collection, materials regarding his presidency, gathered together in this record group, provide a glimpse of his leadership of the College and relationship with the faculty. The record group is made up primarily of original reports that President Valentine submitted to the Board of Trustees on behalf of the faculty, most often during the June meeting from 1868 through 1879. These reports contain information about the academic program and governance of the College and include statements about enrollment and the general health of the student body, disciplinary actions taken, adjustments made to instructional assignments, recommendations to fill vacancies at the college and in the preparatory program, changes to the curriculum, requests for support for teaching equipment and building renovations, lists of candidates to be approved for the Bachelors degree and second or Masters degree*, discussions of college publications, and a

review of Board and faculty interaction regarding the instruction in and governance of the preparatory program. The collection also contains original printings of programs, sermons, lectures, newspaper articles, and promotional materials issued by the College during his presidency including two copies of the inauguration program with his inaugural address, a Baccalaureate Discourse delivered June 12, 1879, and a sermon given on his eightieth birthday.

(*During this period, the College conferred a second degree in the arts, sometimes referred to as a Masters degree, at the end of three years or later on graduates who had engaged in literary or professional study since graduation and who had sustained a good moral character. Most often these were graduates who continued their studies at seminary or who prepared for a career in the law)

Container List Box 1 of 1

1-1 Copy of Finding Aid

1-2 Report of the Faculty to the Board of Trustees August 11, 1868

Death of President Baugher, staffing assignments in Greek, student enrollment of 196, dismissal of 5 students, religious activity, list of candidates to be approved for degrees, situation with College's telescope regarding remaining charges, storage and delivery, student and faculty support for a gymnasium, recommendation to change schedule of academic year to three terms with commencement the last Thursday in June, recommendation for a graduation fee of \$5.00, support for a petition from the Literary Societies for more space that could be accommodated if the Board moved forward on the erection of the Observatory building, suggestions for renovations to Pennsylvania Hall in anticipation of the exit of the preparatory program to a new building, need for more scientific equipment, maps and reference materials, need to hire a new janitor, report of library acquisitions, and hiring decisions and salary for tutors in the preparatory department.

1-3 Report of the Faculty to the Board of Trustees 1869

Student enrollment of 178 with reduction caused by unfinished preparatory accommodations, general good health of the students but with one death, three disciplinary actions, elimination of evening visits to students' rooms giving them greater self policing, greater separation of college and preparatory students, staffing arrangements in Greek, Natural History, German and Franklin Professor of History, hiring of a new janitor, adjustment to commencement day to avoid a conflict with the national Monument dedication, list of candidates to be approved for degrees, honorary degree recommendations, and additions and adjustments needed to the staff of the preparatory department

1-4 Report of the Faculty to the Board of Trustees June 29, 1870

Special teaching adjustments in History, extra lectures in electronics but no lectures in Natural History, student enrollment of 161, general good health of students but with two deaths, six disciplinary dismissals from college and six from the preparatory department, list of candidates to be approved for degrees, recommendations for honorary degrees, elimination of the junior exhibition orations for current juniors because of the size of the class, determination that Agricultural Hall located in Gettysburg would not be appropriate

for commencement, and proposed course of study for a possible commercial course in response to a request by the Board

1-5 Report of the Faculty to the Board of Trustees June 28, 1871

Alternate teaching arrangements by others to cover Physical Sciences because plans for a guest lecturer did not work out, student enrollment at 178 with the largest graduating class, general good health of students with no deaths, good spirit among the students, no disciplinary dismissals, list of candidates to be approved for degrees, policy change requiring those wishing the second degree to submit an application and pay a fee pointing out that Harvard also requires special courses of study and an examination for this degree, tuition at the College less than at all other Pennsylvania Colleges, request for provisions to be made for music at commencement taking this responsibility out of the hands of the students, library in good condition with budget of \$150 expended, good upkeep of buildings, faculty replacement recommendation with a Pennsylvania College graduate who studied at Yale, a second degree oration as a new program at commencement, refitting of the recitation room for Greek, and making provisions for space for a gymnasium

1-6 Report of the Faculty to the Board of Trustees June 26, 1872

Professors fulfilled curriculum as assigned with some added lectures in Natural History, improvements in Physical Science equipment and labs through a generous gift, student enrollment at 142, two suspensions, list of candidates to be approved for degrees with the class of 1872 being the largest in the College's history, good condition of the library with expenditures of \$170 and 150 volumes added, financial commitment from the graduating class of \$464.50 for a gymnasium, preparatory program compulsory board rescinded, death of the preparatory department superintendent and senior tutor appointment as acting Principal, music for commencement, alteration to diploma plate, need for a new printing of the regulations, reduced preparatory enrollment might suggest a delay in applying increased tuition, ideas and budget for increased advertisement

1-7 Report of the Faculty to the Board of Trustees June 25, 1873

Unanticipated vacancy in the English Language and Literature position with other faculty members dividing the work, sharing of responsibilities of Vice President especially when the President was away from the campus soliciting for endowment funds, changes to the Franklin Professorship position to lessen recitations in Latin and increase work in History for seniors, alteration of teaching schedules to permit the President to be away one month each term without eliminating any lectures, at Board request faculty attendance at more preparatory recitations finding the instruction to be generally good but identifying a need to advance standard in Latin and Greek, acknowledgment that giving the responsibility for the gymnasium to a student association was not successful, representative process for selecting speeches at Junior Exhibition, student enrollment at 129, no suspensions, students commended for good behavior and deportment, health good, plans for extra lectures in Botany aborted because of instructor's illness, list of candidates to be approved for degrees, discontinuation of the required study of Latin and Greek at the end of junior year and the establishment of an elective system in the senior year, need to fill the vacancy in English Language and Literature, need for a clarification of the relationship between the college and preparatory department

1-8 Special Report of the President to the Board June 25, 1873

President Milton Valentine reports to the Board of Trustees on his efforts to interest the Church on behalf of the College in response to Trustee actions to increase the College's endowment. He discusses some obstacles to success, the vacancy of several faculty positions which prevented him from being absent from the college for extended periods of time and the general dullness of business in the country. He reports on his presentations at meetings of four Lutheran Synods and the favorable attitude of ministers and delegates toward the College. He concludes that his efforts to obtain immediate possession of funds could be declared a failure, but he expressed hope that the valuable contacts that he made will result in support over time. He reported that time and the press of other business did not permit him to carry on a general collecting effort through a canvassing of congregations. He concludes with a listing of subscriptions totaling \$1,246 for the endowment and \$3,191 for the Observatory, most in promissory notes.

1-9 Report of the Faculty to the Board of Trustees June 23, 1874

Instruction occurred as planned with an acting professor in English Language and Literature and with some guest lectures in Zoology and Botany, student enrollment at 144 with good student deportment no serious sickness and no deaths, list of candidates to be approved for degrees, following the language of the Charter faculty respectfully asked that honorary degrees be approved by both the faculty and the Board and in this regard the President can represent the faculty in regard to a particular individual only when specifically instructed to do so by the faculty, recommended tutors for the preparatory program, need for a larger budget for music at commencement and an increase to the graduation fee, library needs to be enlarged with preference for a separate building, professors salaries not being promptly paid, need for a fuller catalogue with a committee working on a draft for Board approval, recommendations for honorary degrees

1-10 Report of the Faculty to the Board of Trustees 1875

Instruction occurred according to faculty appointment but illness of the President reduced lectures in his area only partially offset by other professors, student enrollment at 160 with 11 working in a special program in Analytical Chemistry, in the kind providence of God no deaths and general good health of students, two dismissed from the college and five from the preparatory program, list of candidates to be approved for degrees, recommended a person for the position of College Pastor with some instructional duties and a recommended salary, need for a change in the janitorship with authorization for the hiring being given to the Repair Committee, Gymnasium Association relinquished authority for the gymnasium turning it back to the faculty who then recommended an added fee to the tuition to provide for its upkeep, submitted an opinion from a committee of college alumni regarding the interpretation of the Charter in regard to the awarding of degrees, specifically honorary degrees, revised standing resolutions for the governance of the institution, request for Board meetings to be schedule so that members could participate in commencement, recommended candidates for honorary degrees

1-11 Report of the Faculty to the Board of Trustees June 28, 1876

Teaching occurred as to appointments except that a number of illnesses resulted in some recitations being giving by other professors, student enrollment at 134 with general good health and no deaths, one dismissal from the college and two from the preparatory program, found impracticable request from Board for faculty to provide some instruction in the preparatory program, list of candidates to be approved for degrees, recommended

candidates for honorary degrees, management of the gymnasium, provisions for instruction in French should there be sufficient interest, College's efforts to be represented at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia and disappointment that material submitted never got displayed, ideas for a joint faculty/Board committee to develop ways to work more closely with institutions preparing students for college, response with suggestions to proposed changes to the Charter

1-12 Report of the Faculty to the Board of Trustees 1877

Student enrollment at 127 with little serious illness and no deaths, two suspensions at the college and one in the preparatory program, list of candidates to be approved for degrees, return to the practice of including a list of alumni in the catalogue and to add a list of prizes and honors, announced a new endowed prize for the best oration on the Battle of Gettysburg, revised schedule for the preparatory program, reorganization of the Linnean Association, establishment of *The Pennsylvania College Monthly* by the faculty to improve communication between the College and its graduates with the editor to be elected by the faculty with associate editors elected by students from each literary society and a representative from the Alumni Association, 1877 recipients of the Graeff Prize, Freshman Prize and the Hessler Gold Medal, continuing issues with repair, upkeep and supervision of the gymnasium, gift of full equipment and instruments for meteorological observations, material submitted for the College to be represented at the Permanent International Exhibition in Philadelphia in an effort to attract students and other support, at Board request a recommended recognized course of study for advanced degrees, proposed process for creating a diploma or certificate for advanced degrees, request for authorization and financial support to establish a Bachelor of Science degree program, clarification of faculty responsibility to preach at Christ Church, recommended candidates for honorary degrees

1-13 Report of the Faculty to the Board of Trustees June 26, 1878

Student enrollment at 131, no cases of serious disciplinary action, staffing adjustments to release Professor Baugher from some sections of Greek to attend to his duties as Financial Secretary and then his subsequent appointment to the Greek Chair, Professor Bikle's duties as Principal of the Preparatory Department, list of candidates to be approved for degrees, recommended candidates for honorary degrees, appointment of tutors and proctor for the prep program

1-14 Report of the Faculty to the Board of Trustees June 25, 1879

Student enrollment at 130, four suspensions, request for two expulsions, a schedule and program of study for the preparatory program that did not conform totally to the request of the Board but deemed appropriate and supported financially in part by some faculty from their own salaries, request to the Board to provide greater resources to the preparatory program by selecting a competent instructor subject directly to the Board thus separating the instruction and budget from that of the College, or suffer the consequences of lower college enrollment with ill prepared students, short of this, the faculty proposed a joint faculty/Board committee to administer the prep program, recommended candidates for honorary degrees, expression of hope that salaries would not have to be reduced as proposed at the last Board meeting

1-15 Printed Programs for the Inauguration of Milton Valentine as President of Pennsylvania College December 21, 1868

- 1-16 A Baccalaureate Discourse, "Aspiration and Perspiration" delivered by Milton Valentine
June 22, 1979
- 1-17 Printed Sermon "The Larger Life" preached by Milton Valentine on his 80th birthday
January 1, 1905
- 1-18 Materials promoting Pennsylvania College 1869-1879
- 1-19 Letter from J.B. Hileman to Dr. Valentine introducing his son J.B. Hileman, Jr. as an
entering freshman, August 31, 1880
- 1-20 Letter of thanks from J. E. Bushnell providing reimbursement for postage used to return a
manuscript, August 26, 1880
- 1-21 Letter from a pastor from Lincoln, Nebraska asking President Valentine for advice as to
the best way to further his education and providing positive comments about the Lutheran
Quarterly Magazine, May 9, 1883
- 1-22 Letter from George H. Larison inquiring if George Rowland graduated from the Medical
Department of Pennsylvania College in 1853, April 24, 1883
- 1-23 Letter from a parent to Dr. Valentine checking if all is well with his son because of a
request from the son for more money, April 6, 1883
- 1-24 Invitation from H.M. Bickel to President Valentine to attend the First Annual Collation
of the Philadelphia Alumni Association of Pennsylvania College, January 12, 1883
- 1-25 Letter to Dr. Valentine announcing his selection as essayist at the meeting of the
Historical Society at Springfield, Ohio for June 1883, January 10, 1883
- 1-26 Letter from Brother Butler to Dr. Valentine regarding the payment of a board bill for Mr.
Poffenberger, April 9, 1883
- 1-27 Follow-up letter from Brother Butler to Dr. Valentine regarding payment of further fees,
June 14, 1883
- 1-28 Letter from P.L. Harrison requesting a recommendation from Dr. Valentine for the
position of the Principal of the high school at Lewistown, Ill, June 18, 1883

For more information about Milton Valentine:

Valentine, Milton; "History of the College"; *The Pennsylvania College Book: 1832-1882*:
Lutheran Publication Society, Philadelphia, 1882 available in the Musselman Special Collection
Reading Room.

Valentine Family Rev. Milton Valentine, third President of Gettysburg College ALS-6pp.
Location: College History. VFM-250

This collection includes a handwritten and photocopy of a letter, dated March 18, 1874, in
which Milton Valentine shares what he knows about the genealogy and history of his branch of
the Valentine family and a copy of the portion of the publication in which that information is
used. (Valentine, T.W.; *The Valentines of America, 1664-1874*: N.Y., Clark & Maynard, 1874)
The collection also contains copies of a photograph and alumni listing for Milton Valentine from
The Pennsylvania College Book: 1832-1882, published by the College to mark the semi
centennial of the College and copies of the alumni listings for Sterling Galt Valentine and
M(ilton) H(enry) Valentine, sons of Milton and graduates of the College in 1882 and 1885
respectively from the *Alumni Record of Gettysburg College: 1832-1932*, published during the

centennial year. (M. H. Valentine returned to the College in 1916 as Professor of English Bible and History, serving until 1930.)

Valentine Family Typed MS-16pp. Location: College History. VFM-327.

This folder contains two copies of "*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*" *Meets the Bullets of Gettysburg College – My Valentine Family Story* by Norman E. Donoghue, II, great-great grandson of Rev. Milton Valentine.

Miscellaneous Volumes 66-69: Grade Books, Valentine, Milton

RG 1 Papers of the Board of Trustees of Gettysburg College: Folder 2-15 Personal copybook of Milton Valentine, contains copies of business 1872 – 1880

Prepared by Ronald Couchman
March 2010