

1861-1897

Calendar prepared in  
The Reference Department  
by  
Mary H. Farmer

Hamilton Public Library  
1966

Miss Freda F. Waldon, Chief Librarian of the Hamilton Public Library from 1940 to 1963, had been interested in the Wesleyan Ladies' College, King Street East, Hamilton, for several years. Her mother, Lillie Hardy, was a graduate of the College in 1887, and many of her friends were either graduates or the daughters of graduates, and to Miss Waldon it seemed a great tragedy that the record of this historic Hamilton school was in danger of being lost as, one by one, death claimed those who could remember it.

In 1952 Miss Waldon sent a letter to the periodical 'Saturday Night' of Toronto, with a request for all available information, including recollections and reminiscences, from those of its readers who might also be interested in the College and had some experience of the value of the courses given there during its existence between 1861 and 1897. Miss Waldon also searched among her own papers and brought together a great deal of material on the College and its staff as well as on the students, most of which would otherwise have disappeared.

The Hamilton Public Library has collated this material in two formats:-

1. A scrap-book of clippings from various sources, mainly contemporary newspapers.
2. A file of letters, pamphlets, and other papers not suitable for inclusion in the scrap-book but designated 'Archives' and filed in the Canadiana Archives file.

The Alumnae Association of the Wesleyan Ladies' College is still in existence as the Literary Club, and now includes only daughters and grand-daughters of the original graduate-members. In 1966 it is probably the oldest literary association of its kind in Canada.

MHF  
Apr. 1966

1. Papers about the College:
  - a. Louise Wright Griffith, ca 1930 1-6
  - b. Freda F. Waldon - The bride who didn't know 7-8
  - c. Freda F. Waldon's notes on the history of the College 9-10
2. An Act to incorporate the Wesleyan Female College of Hamilton,

May 18, 1861

11-18

3. Correspondence, including recollections and reminiscences about the College:

a. 1952

Oct. 11. Hamilton. Freda F. Waldon to 'Saturday Night', Toronto,  
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graduates of the College. 18-a

b. Freda F. Waldon and Professor R.C. Archibald, Mount Allison Memorial  
Library, Sackville, N.B.

1954

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July 7 Miss Waldon to Prof. Archibald on the closing of the College, first  
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July 11 Prof. Archibald, on the first woman to receive a bachelor's degree,  
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July 14 Miss Waldon, on the first graduate of the Wesleyan Female  
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July 17 Prof. Archibald on Mary Allison, and on Woodstock College 29

c. Freda F. Waldon and Annie E. Barker, Toronto

1946

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d. Freda F. Waldon and Mrs. R.L. Charles, Toronto

ca 1952

-- Mrs. Charles to Miss Waldon with an account of Professor J.F. McLaughlin's recollections of his teaching days at the Wesleyan Ladies' College; and on C.I.D. Moore and his sister 65-71

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Sept. 24 Dr. Colgate's acknowledgment 81

f. Freda F. Waldon and Miss Mamie L. Cunningham, Toronto

1952

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- Dec. 14 Mrs. Dingman's acknowledgment 97-99
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