

11-20-2008

Bethel College - Matriculation Records, 1854-1918 (MSS 182)

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Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Bethel College - Matriculation Records, 1854-1918 (MSS 182)" (2008). *MSS Finding Aids*. Paper 368.
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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
Special Collections Library
Department of Library Special Collections
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Bowling Green, KY 42101

Descriptive Inventory

**MSS 182 BETHEL College – Russellville, Kentucky –
Matriculation Records, 1854-1918**

½ box. 9 folders. 3 items. Photostat copies.

2002.49.6

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

Planning for a new high school in Russellville, Kentucky, began in 1849 within the Bethel Association of Baptists in Logan County, Kentucky. The first students were admitted in 1854, when the new school building was completed. Even after it became Bethel College, the institution retained the high school department. The four-year college became a two-year junior college in 1920. The school's curriculum was described as "full and complete," but it leaned toward civil engineering and both classical and modern languages.

Initial funding for the school came from the Bethel Association, but soon Kentucky Baptists, through their statewide organization, provided a significant portion of the school's operating expenses. Bethel was a logical place to prepare for admission to theological seminaries, and students were often referred to as "preacher boys" in town. Even with a modest endowment, Bethel could not withstand the financial reversals of the Great Depression. The school's last commencement was held on January 20, 1933.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of a photostat copy of a matriculation book kept at Bethel College in Russellville, Kentucky, from 1854-1918. Generally it lists the names of students, the date they enrolled, the name of their guardian, city of origin, and age. In addition to biographical information, the book left a place for remarks, which generally related to their standing with the school: "left honorably," "graduated '58," "left-not in good standing," "left-a tolerable student."

The photocopies of the matriculation book were divided into 50 page intervals, so they could be conveniently foldered.

SHELF LIST

MSS 182	Manuscripts & Folklife Archives – Special Collections Library – Western Kentucky University
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BOX 1	Bethel College Matriculation Records	1854-1918	3 items
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BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS BETHEL College – Russellville, Kentucky – 1854-1918
182 Matriculation records

Matriculation book (414 p.) for Bethel College, 1854-1918. Bethel, a Baptist school located in Russellville, Kentucky, started as a high school and evolved into a four-year college, and finally became a junior college.

½ box. 9 folders. 3 items. Photostat copies.
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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Baptists – Education – Russellville
Education – Russellville
Schools – Russellville

Mattingly/Jeffrey 11/20/2007