

Collection: JOYNER, JAMES YADKIN, PAPERS (1862-
Raleigh, North Carolina

P.C. 171.1 - 171.05

1873; 1902-1912

Physical Description: Certificates, resolutions, speeches, sketches, newspaper clippings, receipts and bills, letters. 1,211 items.

Acquisition: Transferred from the Department of Public Instruction Papers. February 5, 1951.

Description: James Yadkin Joyner, son of John and Sallie A. (Wooten) Joyner, was born in Davidson County, August 7, 1862. Joyner was raised in Lenoir County and attended La Grange Academy. After graduating from the University of North Carolina (1881) he was principal at La Grange Academy (1881-1883). He was Lenoir County Superintendent of Schools for a year, taught at Winston for a year, practiced law in Goldsboro for three years and during that time was chairman of the Wayne County Board of Education. From 1889-1893 he was Superintendent of the Goldsboro Graded Schools and resigned the latter year to teach at the State Normal School at Greensboro, where he remained until appointed Superintendent of Public Instruction by Governor Aycock in February, 1902. Joyner was secretary and later president of the Association of the Southern States Superintendents (1903-1907) and was president of the National Education Association in 1910. He was also president of the North Carolina Teacher's Assembly and of the Summer School for Teachers, as well as conductor of the Teachers' Institute in the state. His interest in farming and rural education is reflected in his presidency of the North Carolina Convention of Farmers and Farm Women and as a director in the tobacco growers cooperative association. Joyner married Effie E. Rouse of La Grange in December, 1887, and they had two sons, James Nash and William T. Joyner.

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Much of the correspondence in this collection deals with Joyner's family and personal business. Many of the letters are to and from J. A. Matheson, his real estate agent in Greensboro, and to the occupants of his two houses there. Others to and from his brother-in-law N. J. Rouse relate to his farms in Lenoir County where his tenants raised cotton and tobacco.

Some of the earlier correspondence deals with the recent death of Dr. Charles D. McIver and the choice of a successor. Writing in this regard are Governor Thomas J. Jarvis, B. F. Aycock of Fremont, and J. I. Foust, who became president of the State Normal School.

Correspondents on more general or political subjects are: Senators F. M. Simmons and Lee S. Overman, and Josephus and Frank Daniels, Walter Hines Page, Governor R. B. Glenn, W. D. Carmichael, J. C. B. Ehringhaus, Archibald Henderson, S. A. Ashe, Mangum Weeks, E. C. Brooks, and C. A. Siler.

As a member of the National Education Association Joyner corresponded with educational leaders of the nation, chiefly C. G. Pearson of Milwaukee, president of the State Normal School there; George L. Towne, editor of the Nebraska Teacher, John F. Sims, State Normal School, Stevens Point, Wisconsin; and Wallace Buttrick, chairman of the General Board of Education of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Joyner was a member of the Aycock Memorial Commission and corresponded with Clarence Poe of Raleigh, George C. Royall of Goldsboro, and R. M. Pearsall of New Bern in this regard.

When Joyner resigned as Superintendent of Public Instruction he received letters from educators all over the country as well as from county superintendents in the state and others interested in his career. After his resignation he was State Chairman of the Executive Committee in the campaign for American aid for Armenian and Syrian relief and corresponded with national headquarters and local units. His advice was also sought in matters relating to education. He was requested to give his opinion on various candidates for the presidency of the University of North Carolina; a group in Moore County asked help in securing funds for the Sandhill Farm Life School; and Mrs. R. J. Reynolds of Winston asked his advice in setting up a rural community school.

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Some miscellaneous correspondence covering approximately a year (1913) includes letters to and from the manager of the Raleigh YMCA basketball team to managers of "Y" and college and service teams in Durham, Asheville, Wilson, Wilmington, Greensboro, Norfolk, Virginia, and Columbus, Georgia.

The miscellaneous items in the collection consist of: certificates, resolutions, newspaper clippings, bills, receipts, invitations, speeches by Joyner and others, and sketches. The latter cover such subjects as promotion of interest in the schools in the counties, views on prohibition and taxes in relation to the schools, education for the masses, recommendations for including agriculture in the curriculum of the schools, local taxation for education, relation of state superintendents to county superintendents, and a review of the education legislation of the General Assembly of 1907. There are brief sketches of Calvin H. Wiley, Edwin A. Alderman, and Joyner.