

# Freshman "Rat Cap" CollectionLU.373

Freshman "Rat Cap" Collection  
1930-1975



## Title Statement

Freshman "Rat Cap" CollectionLU.373

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 13:55:32 -0400.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

LU.373

### Unit Date

1930-1975

### Textile

Multi-Collection Box 8 (box)

### Container

LU-373 (object)

### Language

English .

### Extent

3 Object

### Repository

Greenwood Library Archives and Special Collections

## Administrative Information

## Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions to access or use for research purposes.

## Biographical / Historical

This longstanding Longwood tradition began in 1925, when the sophomore, junior, and senior classes at [then] State Teachers College voted that all freshmen students would be required to wear "rat cap" beanies each school day, and all day Saturday. The tradition evolved over the years, where no longer required to wear the caps all year, the freshmen were made to participate in Rat Week during which the freshmen were forced to follow restrictive rules regarding dress and activities and had to follow all instructions given by upperclassmen.

The tradition continued throughout the 1960s. However, the popularity of "ratting" began to decline among both students and faculty, until the early 1970s, when it was discontinued.

## Scope and Contents

The "rat caps" in this collection date from the early 1930s to the early 1970s.

## Keywords

Longwood University -- History

## Custodial History

Nancy Shelton acquired the "rat caps" in this collection during her tenure with the Longwood University Department of Alumni Relations.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Freshman "rat cap" beanie

**Textile** Multi-Collection Box 8 (box)

**Extent** 1 ObjectBlue and white wool segments. Inscribed with names and notes on white segments. Unknown owner, unknown provenance.

### Freshman "rat cap" beanie

**Textile** Multi-Collection Box 8 (box)

**Extent** 1 ObjectWhite wool with blue brim and blue button. "56" and "L.C." inscribed on front. Multiple names and notes inscribed on sides and back. Unknown owner, unknown provenance.

### Freshman "rat cap" beanie

**Textile** Multi-Collection Box 8 (box)

**Extent** 1 ObjectWhite wool with blue brim and blue button. No inscriptions. Unknown owner, unknown provenance.